



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 17-18, 2009

Jesus took upon himself every human suffering, every sense of dread, every burden of guilt.

In today's first reading, Isaiah meditates on the saving death and final victory of the suffering servant; this prophecy is fulfilled by Jesus.

In the Second Reading, Jesus is presented as our high priest who has overcome sin and death to intercede for us in heaven. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus can sympathize with our weakness and, therefore, we can approach God confidently, trusting in his mercy and grace. Christian hope ought to make us confident, not timid, before God.

And in today's Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples that the greatest in the kingdom is not the one who is served by others, but rather the one who serves. Jesus also teaches that discipleship can mean suffering and serving after the pattern that He Himself showed us. For Jesus has borne our guilt and enabled sinners to know God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

Like Jesus, believers will be called to cultivate sympathy that will gradually but surely grow into empathy for others, a personal commitment to the other. Empathy will move sincere disciples to serve the needs of others as Jesus did, to alleviate the suffering of others as Jesus did, to defend the helpless as Jesus did, to speak for the voiceless as Jesus did, and to reach out with unquestioned and unmeasured love to the poor, as Jesus did.

Jesus' example challenged his first disciples and continues to call upon us, his followers, to test our willingness to be similarly spent for the sake of the kingdom.

Readings:

Isaiah 53:10-11; <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/isaiah/isaiah53.htm#v10>

Psalms 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22;

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/psalms/psalm33.htm>

Hebrews 4:14-16;

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews4.htm#v14>

Mark 10:35-45; <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark10.htm#v35>

Prayers of the Faithful for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. For Church leaders, especially Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Loverde and all the priests and clergy, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them in their life of service, we pray to the Lord.

2. For all God's people, especially those in authority, may they imitate the example of Jesus who came not to be served but to serve, we pray to the Lord.

3. For politicians and elected officials, may they recall the source of their power and seek their greatness only by making themselves the servants of all, we pray to the Lord.

4. For our parish family, that those who are crushed by anguish of heart or emotional pain, may come to the light of God's peace and a knowledge of His purpose for them, we pray to the Lord.

5. For the men and women serving in the armed forces, especially those in harm's way, and those supporting them, may they be strengthened by God in their daily assignments, and know they are appreciated by their fellow Americans, we pray to the Lord.

6. For those afflicted by the infirmity of age or the burden of disease and illness, especially our wounded warriors and _____,

_____,
may they derive strength from their union with Christ, we pray to the Lord.

7. For those who have died and held fast to their confession of faith on earth, especially _____

_____,
may they pass through the heavens to stand with joy before the throne of grace, we pray to the Lord.