

The Living Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

4 September 2022

First Reading Wis 9:13-18

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the
soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the
teeming mind.
It is hard enough for us to work out what is
on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our
reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the
heavens?
As for your intention, who could have learnt
it, had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth
been straightened
and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

*(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been
our refuge.*

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. *(R.)*
2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the
morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. *(R.)*
3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. *(R.)*
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. *(R.)*

Second Reading Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and,
what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus.
I am appealing to you for a child of mine,
whose father I became while wearing these
chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending
him back to you, and with him – I could
say – a part of my own self. I should have
liked to keep him with me; he could have
been a substitute for you, to help me while
I am in the chains that the Good News has
brought me. However, I did not want to do
anything without your consent; it would
have been forcing your act of kindness,
which should be spontaneous. I know you
have been deprived of Onesimus for a time,
but it was only so that you could have him
back for ever, not as a slave any more, but
something much better than a slave, a dear
brother; especially dear to me, but how
much more to you, as a blood-brother as
well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that
we have in common means anything to you,
welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 14:25-33

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my
disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way
and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man
comes to me without hating his father, mother,
wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his
own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone
who does not carry his cross and come after
me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to
build a tower, would not first sit down and
work out the cost to see if he had enough
to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the
foundation and then found himself unable
to finish the work, the onlookers would
all start making fun of him and saying, "Here
is a man who started to build and was unable
to finish." Or again, what king marching to
war against another king would not first sit
down and consider whether with ten thousand
men he could stand up to the other who
advanced against him with twenty thousand?
If not, then while the other king was still
a long way off, he would send envoys to
sue for peace. So in the same way, none
of you can be my disciple unless he gives
up all his possessions.'



Reflection by Nick Brodie

A common thread that runs through
this week's readings is the passing of
time. We are told that God's
intentions transcend and outlast
ours, that our lives are short and our
bodies dust. But none of this is cause
for worry so much as a reality check,
a reminder that we are all Created
Beings living within a wider Creation.
An elderly St Paul speaks of
deprivation 'for a time' before turning
his attention to human relationships
and eternal hopes, reminding us that
the Resurrection for which we hope is
Creation renewed in Communion in
Christ.

While we are celebrating the Season
of Creation, such Scripture therefore
also reminds us that Creation's
'season' is eternal. This helps us
make sense of this week's seemingly
troubling Gospel passage where
Jesus speaks of 'hating' loved ones,
even 'hating' our own lives, and His
insistence that we give up all our
possessions. Jesus' point is that our
relationships with people and things
should be part of a bigger, longer
picture, and that our approach
towards Creation should not be
possessive. Your mother is God's
Creation. Your life is God's. Your
possessions really belong to God.
Which then begs the question: Do
you approach Creation unselfishly?

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The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a feast that commemorates the birthday of Jesus' mother. Even though Mary's birth is not recorded in the scriptures, it is mentioned in the Apocryphal writings from the second century, the Protoevangelium of James and is even mentioned in Islamic scripture. Her parents are named as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim and tradition places Mary's birthplace in Jerusalem. The feast has been celebrated since the fifth century – on September 8 in the Roman Calendar.

The Love Maze

Find the path to God



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- brother
- cannot
- children
- cross
- crowd
- disciple
- father
- large
- life
- more
- mother
- sister

Q	A	J	U	Z	Q	P	R	C	D	W	O	R	C	J
M	W	E	G	L	N	E	T	N	M	U	B	O	J	J
B	Y	R	I	Q	J	W	H	E	G	O	F	Q	F	I
S	G	O	L	B	Q	D	S	F	A	B	Q	G	C	K
W	G	M	E	Y	I	C	F	I	L	R	V	I	M	U
E	M	Q	R	O	D	A	X	L	B	J	S	O	Z	Q
U	Z	H	G	K	C	N	X	E	D	V	T	C	N	A
H	F	U	Y	K	U	N	Z	U	R	H	T	P	R	C
D	A	W	N	X	U	O	X	R	E	A	I	Z	E	L
T	T	L	I	O	P	T	G	R	E	J	V	Z	H	A
R	M	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	H	C	W	T	X
Y	L	V	Y	U	R	E	G	R	A	L	T	I	A	W
C	W	W	C	O	L	C	J	S	E	J	T	O	F	D
O	B	N	S	T	R	T	G	H	Z	T	E	P	R	U
Z	P	S	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	S	D	V	B
I	J	V	T	N	W	Z	V	W	J	J	F	I	T	Z
I	N	A	R	W	H	G	L	C	H	D	Y	D	S	H