

# The Living Word

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

30 October 2022

## First Reading Wis 11:22-12:2

*You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists.*

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.

Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent.

Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence,

for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you?

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life,

you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,

you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. see v.1**

*(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.*

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their  
blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

## Second Reading 2 Thes 1:11-2:2

*The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him.*

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,*

*that all who believe in him might have eternal life.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Lk 19:1-10

*The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which was lost.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

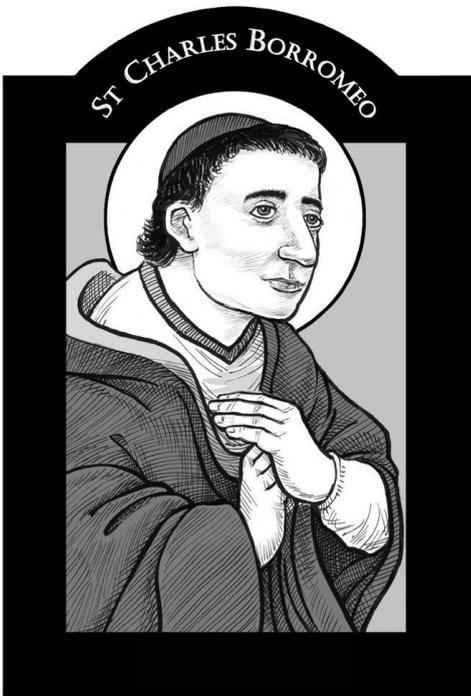
Zacchaeus was an over-the-top character, not only figuratively but, in this incident, quite literally up in a sycamore tree. He thought he was keeping an eye out for Jesus, but Jesus was keeping an eye out for his sort of character!

'Zacchaeus' means 'clean'. But his fellow Jews regarded him as a filthy collaborator with the Romans. However, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in a double perspective, not only as he was but as he could become if only he responded to the grace on offer. He did, and the response was truly 'over the top'!

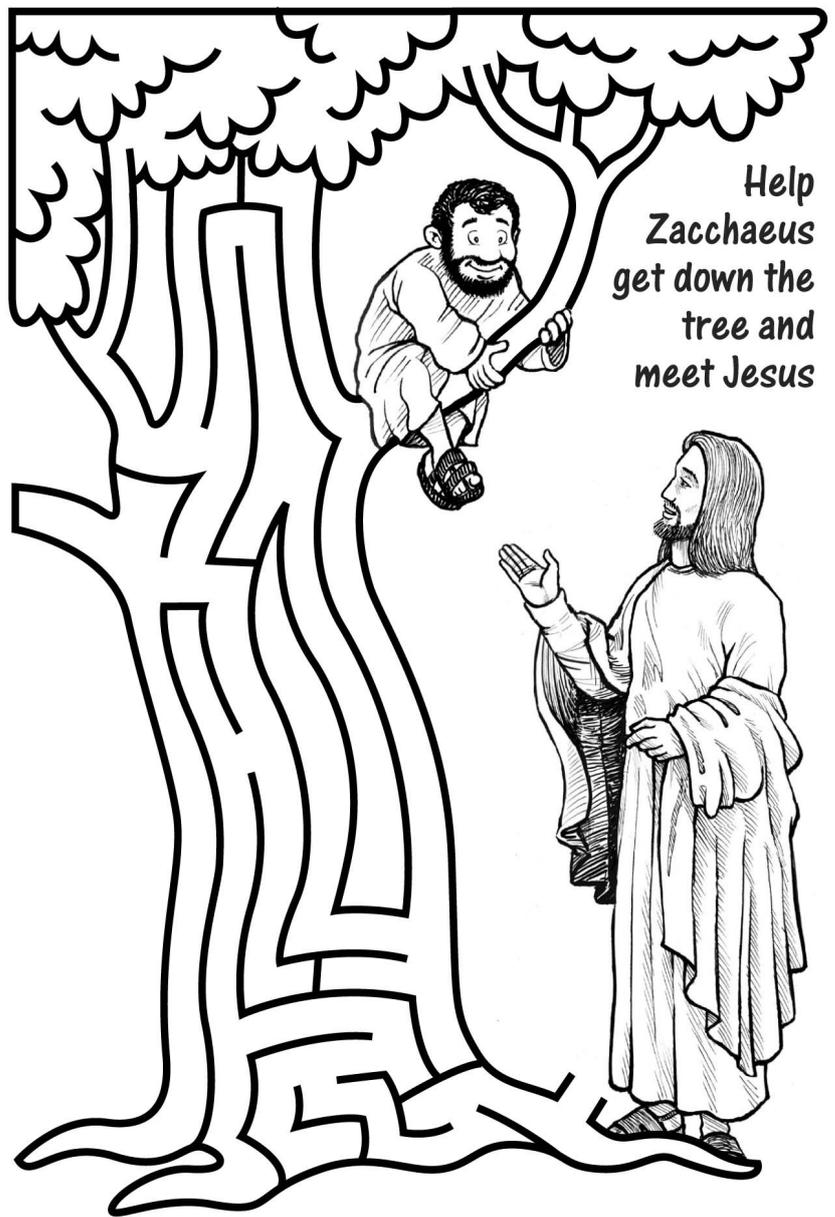
We come to Mass to catch a glimpse of Jesus in the scriptures and sacrament. But, we find that our Risen Lord is constantly gazing at us. He is the Divine Seer who sees us as we are, but also as we are capable of becoming.

We could pause for a moment to pray to become more conscious of the gaze of the Divine Seer. There could be 'over-the-top' consequences!

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**S**t Charles Borromeo was born of a wealthy Italian family and was the nephew of Pope Pius IV. At the age of twenty two, he was summoned to Rome and made cardinal and administrator of the Papal states and the archdiocese of Milan. Despite his personal wealth, St Charles lived a simple, ascetic life and was a strong supporter of church reform. In 1564 he was ordained a priest and consecrated as bishop. He founded seminaries and instituted the teaching of doctrine to children in Sunday schools. Never one to ask of another something he was not prepared to do himself, St Charles worked tirelessly to help those in need.



### Complete the Text maze:

“The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.”

START

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U	B	M	Y	S	E	F	Q	P	D
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FINISH