

Sunday Readings

31st August 2025

Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach

3:17-20. 28-29

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67:4-7. 10-11. R/. cf. v.11

R/. In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R/.**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R/.**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them
new life.

It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the
poor. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:18-19. 22-24

Brothers and Sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the

assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:29ab

Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in
heart.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1. 7-14

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

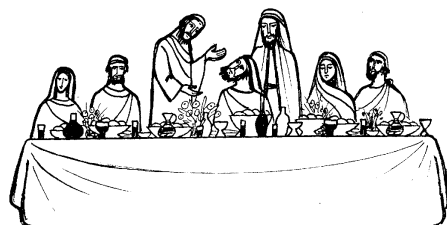
Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person", and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.



The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted."

The readings of the twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time talk to us about the most fundamental virtue of all, humility. This virtue is so necessary to humanity that Jesus himself spoke about it frequently. On this occasion, Saint Luke tells us in the Gospel that the Lord was invited to a banquet in the home of an important man, a Pharisee. When he entered and sat down, the Lord observed the other guests and what he saw he did not like. As they arrived the guests would sit in the places of honour. They tried to get to the best seats, closest to the host.

In the society that surrounds us people who are in authority are considered to be great people. The readings today show us what it means to be great. For Jesus, great people are those who want to serve others. He tells us that we should be humble in everything we do and he reminds us that when we invite someone to our home that we should not invite so and so because he or she is important or is going to repay us in some way. He tells us that when we invite someone we should do so naturally and, if possible, it should be someone who is in need. Because the important thing is not that the guests praise us or speak well of us or that they owe us a favour because we invited them. For the Lord the important thing is that we do good for others, that we are useful.

This is the greatness of heart of a good Christian. And for that reason we admire the greatness of soul of simple people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta who always said that the Lord had called her to attend to the needs of the poorest of the poor.

So the message of this today's Gospel is humility. The truth is that what we think of ourselves simply doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is what God thinks of us. The only thing that matters is how God sees us. Humility is found in accepting what God has in mind for us and then acting accordingly.

These are some words of Pope Francis: "All of us must care for life, cherish life, with tenderness, warmth...to give life is to open our heart, and to care for life is to give oneself in tenderness and warmth for others, to have concern in my heart for others. Each of us needs to promote the dignity of every human being, especially the disadvantaged. We are equal with our brothers and sisters in the eyes of God, not above them."

Monday 1st September 2025

Saint Giles (c.650 - c.710)

St Giles is thought to have been a hermit, who lived in southern France in the 7th century AD. He is traditionally depicted with a hind and there are various stories as to why that should be so. According to a 10th-century biography, Giles was an Athenian from a wealthy family who gave away his inherited wealth, fled to France and made himself a hermitage in a forest near the mouth of the Rhone, where, we are told, he lived on herbs and the milk of a hind. This retreat was finally discovered by the hunters of the King of the Franks (one version gives the King's name as Flavius Wamba, another as Charles Martel), who had pursued the hind to its place of refuge. An arrow shot at the deer wounded Giles instead, as he put out his hand to protect the deer and was himself speared by the arrow. The king was so impressed by Giles' holiness that he built him a monastery on the site of the hermitage and made Giles its first abbot.

Giles later became the patron saint of cripples, beggars and blacksmiths. We are told that Giles was one of the most popular saints of Western Europe in the later middle ages and there are numerous churches dedicated to him throughout this country. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church describes Giles as one of the 14 Auxiliary Saints or "Holy Helpers", venerated for the supposed efficacy of their prayers on behalf of those in need. His life and personality became a magnet for pious legends, behind which a coherent biography is sometimes hard to discern.

He is the patron saint of Edinburgh, whose cathedral church is dedicated to him.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Teresa of Calcutta

Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us.

Renew in us your spirit, Lord, free us and make us one. Amen.