

# FAITH FOR SUNDAY

September 22, 2024 Year B

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## OPENING PRAYER

**+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen**

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

## LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

### **Gospel: Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Jesus tries to teach his disciples that He must suffer, die and rise, but they fail to understand Him. Why was this so? Was the argument among the disciples in line with Jesus' mission? Jesus handles his disciples in the manner which He took the child. Fostering an open, docile spirit is the antidote to selfish ambition and wicked desires. What is Christ's way of wisdom and holiness?

### **Reading I: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The wicked say: Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

In their injustice, the wicked hatch nefarious plans towards those you would pursue justice and righteousness. They aim at contending with the fundamental identity of the just, child of God. What does the wicked ultimately realize? How do we respond to those who try to undermine our faith?

## Notes

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord upholds my life.**

**Reading II: James 3:16-4:3**

Beloved: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

While the wicked associate with envy and selfish ambition, the wise enjoy the gift “from above”. Why are these called good fruits? Can you see how righteousness begets righteousness? What does it mean to reap what you sow? What does this mean for the wicked?

**Feast days this week**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**MONDAY 23 SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST**  
**TUESDAY 24 WEEKDAY**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 WEEKDAY**  
**THURSDAY 26 WEEKDAY**  
**FRIDAY 27 SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST**  
**SATURDAY 28 WEEKDAY**

*reflect*

Do I find myself fighting for God's grace or seeking His ways through peace?

*pray*

Father God, help me to produce fruit that glorifies You,  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen

*live*

Seek the humble way to wisdom and holiness.