

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord
with your merciful love.

COLLECT

O God, by whom we are
redeemed and receive
adoption, look graciously
upon your beloved sons and
daughters, that those who
believe in Christ may receive
true freedom and an
everlasting inheritance.
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.
Amen

FIRST READING

Wisdom 9:13-18b

What human being can
learn the counsel of God?
Or who can discern what
the Lord wills? For the
reasoning of mortals is
worthless, and our designs
are likely to fail, for a
perishable body weighs
down the soul, and this
earthly tent burdens the
mind full of thoughts.
We can hardly guess at what
is on earth, and what is at
hand we find with labour;
but who has traced out what
is in the heavens? Who has
learned your counsel, unless

you have given wisdom and
sent your holy spirit from on
high? And thus the paths of
those on earth were set
right, and people were
taught what pleases you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17.
℟ 1

℟ **O Lord, you have
been our refuge, from
generation to
generation.**

You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children
of Adam.' To your eyes a
thousand years are like
yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.
℟

You sweep them away like a
dream, like grass which is
fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts
and is fresh; by evening it
withers and fades. ℟

Then teach us to number
our days, that we may gain
wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How
long? Show pity to your
servants. ℟

At dawn, fill us with your
merciful love; we shall exult
and rejoice all our days.

Let the favour of the Lord
our God be upon us;
give success to the work of
our hands. O give success to
the work of our hands. ℟

℟ **O Lord, you have
been our refuge, from
generation to
generation.**

SECOND READING

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man
and now a prisoner also for
Christ Jesus — I appeal to
you for my child, Onesimus,
whose father I became in
my imprisonment. I am
sending him back to you,
sending my very heart. I
would have been glad to
keep him with me, in order
that he might serve me on
your behalf during my
imprisonment for the gospel,
but I preferred to do
nothing without your
consent in order that your
goodness might not be by
compulsion but of your own
accord. For this perhaps is
why he was parted from you
for a while, that you might
have him back for ever, no
longer as a bondservant but
more than a bondservant, as
a beloved brother —
especially to me, but how
much more to you, both in
the flesh and in the Lord. So
if you consider me your
partner, receive him as you
would receive me.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

Let your face shine forth on
your servant,

and teach me your decrees.

Alleluia...

GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for

terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This lesson then clearly teaches us, what sort of persons He would have us to be. "For whosoever comes unto Me, He says, and hates not his father and his mother, and his wife and his children, and his brethren, and his sisters, yes, and his own self also, cannot be My disciple." "What then, O Lord, some perchance may say, do You despise the laws of natural affection? Do You command us to hate one another, and to disregard the love that is due to fathers from their sons, to wives from their husbands, to brethren from their brethren? Shall we make those enemies who are members of the same household; and those, whom it is our duty rather to love, must we count as foes, in order that we may be with you, and be able to follow you?"

This is not what the Saviour means. Away with so vain a thought. For He Who commands even those who are violent enemies to be gentle, and forgiving to all who would do them wrong: for, "Love, He says, your enemies: and pray for them that spoil you:" ...

*St Cyril of Alexandria's
Homiletic Commentary on
Luke 14:25-35*