

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Dear Lord,
you are the ruler of all things;
we are weak and
unimportant.
Yet you love us
and sent Jesus to save us.
Take us by the hand,
protect us from all harm
and bring us
to our home with you,
where you are with Jesus
and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings focus on the attitude Christians have toward each other. Christians, living by God's wisdom rather than earthly values, treat one another with respect and love.

Our first reading gives us a list of virtues to be found among those who live by wisdom. It also describes life without those virtues: "but when people are jealous and think only of themselves, it leads only to fights and arguments."

The Gospel passage gives us an example of this among the disciples. Jesus is quick to correct them. "If you want to be among the most important. . . you must serve all other people." Our faith in Christ should make a difference in the way we treat others. Jesus presents as a model for this simplicity and humility a little child.

FIRST READING: *James 3:14-18; 4:1-3, 7-8*

*This is a reading
from a letter written by James.*

My brothers and sisters,
When people are jealous
and think only about themselves,
they do all kinds of evil things.
But when people live by God's wisdom,
they are honest and kind.
They are gentle and forgiving.
They live in peace
and try to make peace with everyone.

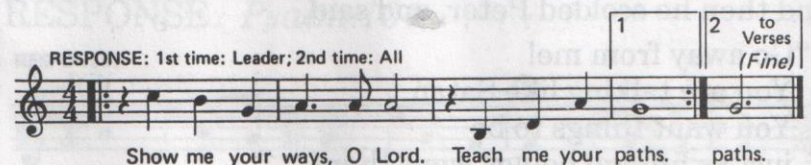
Why do you have fights and arguments?
Isn't it because
when you don't get what you want
you are jealous,
and so you fight and argue?
You don't get what you want
because you don't ask for it
or because you ask for the wrong reasons.
You ask for what you want just to be selfish.

Give up these evil ways.
Stay near to God and God will stay near to you.

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 25*

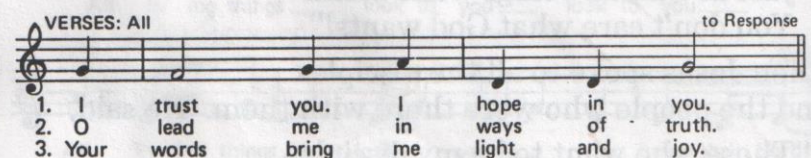
RESPONSE: 1st time: Leader; 2nd time: All



1 2 to Verses (Fine)

Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths. paths.

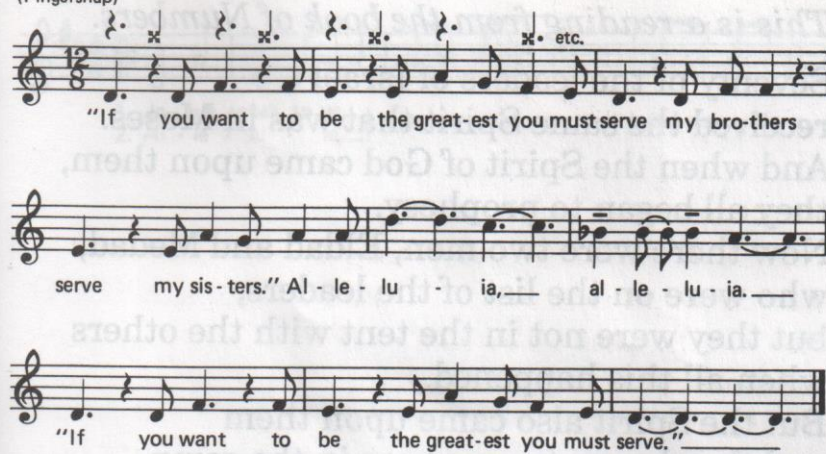
VERSES: All to Response



1. I trust you. I hope in you.
2. O lead me in ways of truth.
3. Your words bring me light and joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

(Fingersnap)



"If you want to be the great-est you must serve my bro-thers
serve my sis-ters." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
"If you want to be the great-est you must serve."

GOSPEL: Mark 9:33-37

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum.
And when they were inside the house,
Jesus asked his disciples,

"What were you talking about
on the way home?"

They didn't answer him
because they had been talking
about which one of them
was the most important disciple.

Jesus sat down and called the twelve apostles
to come and sit with him. He said to them,

"If you really want to be the most important,
you must treat everyone else
as more important than yourself.
And you must serve all other people."

Then Jesus put a little child in front of them.
He put his arms around the child
and said to the disciples,

"Those who accept a little child like this
because of me,
are also accepting me.
And those who accept me
are really accepting the One who sent me."

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After reading the Gospel, ask the children to retell what happened in their own words.

Ask them why the disciples did not want to answer Jesus when he asked them what they were talking about on the way home. Help the children see that Jesus taught the disciples that they should not be jealous but Jesus did not scold them for this because he understands that sometimes it's hard not to be jealous of other people. Instead, he called them and asked them to sit down with them so he could explain this to them.

Ask the children what they remember about the first reading. Perhaps you will need to read it again.

Ask the children what they think about what James said. Is that their experience? Is that why "fights and arguments" happen? Perhaps some would share other examples.

Help them see that God will help us when we feel jealous. The children should know that it is not bad to *feel* jealous. James is warning us about how we *act* when we are jealous.