

**TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Protector God,
you show your care for us
through our families
and those who look after us.
Help all husbands and wives,
and mothers and fathers,
to be true to each other.
May our homes be filled
with your happiness
and peace.
We ask you this
through Jesus, your Son.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings today is the sacredness of marriage. This focus is extended to the sacredness of the family in the Gospel passage with the blessing of the children.

The description of the creation of woman (a different description from the one presented in Genesis 1) focuses on the common humanity of man and woman. They are, as it were, "made of the same stuff," bone and flesh, and they complement each other. The account tells us that for this reason men and women leave their parents and share a life together, they "belong to one another." This theology was accompanied by a prohibition of divorce. It is this point that links the first reading with the Gospel. The creation stories focus on the sacredness of marriage, and Jesus, refusing to be trapped by legalism, responds to the question of divorce by reaffirming this sacredness. Children are the natural fruit of this sacred union and Jesus here affirms their sanctity as well.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 2:18-24*

This is a reading from the book of Genesis.

God said,

"It is not good for the man I have created to live alone.

I will make a partner for him,
someone like himself."

So God made the man go to sleep.
And while he was sleeping,
God took one of his ribs out of his side
and put flesh in its place.

Then God made the rib into a woman
and took her to the man. The man said,

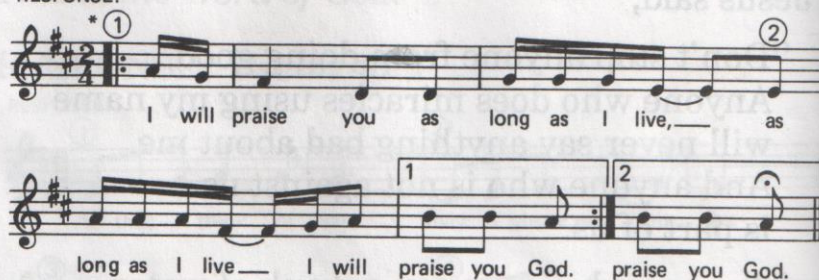
"This person is really part of my body.
Because she was taken out of a man,
she will be called woman."

And that is why men and women
leave their mothers and fathers
and belong to each other.
They no longer live as two separate people,
but they live as one person.

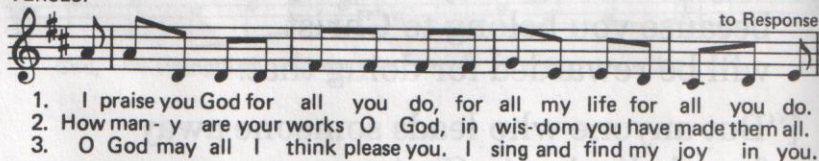
This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*

RESPONSE:

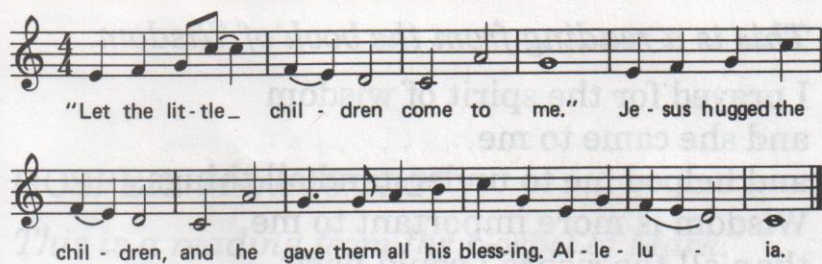


VERSES:



* Round after final verse is sung

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-9, 13-16

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Some of the Pharisees came to Jesus
and tried to trick him
into saying something against the law.
They asked him,

"Is it all right for a man to divorce his wife?"

Jesus said,

"In the beginning,
God made both men and women.
When they leave their mothers and fathers,
they belong to each other.
They no longer live as two separate people
but they live as one person.
God has brought them together
and no one should separate them."

Then people were bringing their little children
to Jesus so he would touch them.

The disciples scolded the people
for bothering him.

But when Jesus saw this,
he became angry and said to the disciples,

"Let the little children come to me,
and don't try to stop them.
The kingdom of God belongs to people
who are like these little children.
I tell you honestly,
unless you become like a little child,
you will not enter the Kingdom of God."

Then Jesus hugged the children
and blessed them.

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Because children tend to be literal
and because this account of the
creation of woman differs from the
one they usually hear (Genesis 1)
they may be confused. It may be best
not to deal too explicitly with the
details of the first reading. The
Gospel passage picks up the main
focus of the first reading and can be
explored there.

After the Gospel, ask the children
to recall the reading. This may likely
be a delicate subject for discussion if
there are children present whose
parents are divorced. It may seem to
be a judgment of their parents in
light of the Gospel. Also, children
often feel they themselves are to
blame for the separation of their
parents. Furthermore, it seems
inappropriate to spend a great deal of
time on a teaching that is, practically
speaking, irrelevant to small
children. Perhaps it would be better
to simply state that Jesus blesses
marriage and indeed all of family life.
We can then concentrate on the
second part of the Gospel, the
blessing of the children. They
should see in this reading that Jesus
is never too busy for children. And
indeed, Jesus wants children to come
to him and to be with him.

You may want to have a special
ceremony for this day. If it works
well in your parish, the children
could come forward for a special
blessing at the conclusion of the
liturgy in the general assembly. If
this is not possible in your parish,
the Minister of the Word might
preside at a blessing ceremony before
the children return to the assembly.
Ideally, each child would be called by
name. This might also be an
occasion to give the children a small
picture or holy card of Jesus.
Perhaps you may find one of Jesus
blessing the children.