

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord,  
we are filled  
with your wonder—  
at all you have told us  
about yourself  
through Jesus, your Son.  
May we listen  
to what he has to say to us,  
place all our trust in him,  
and be at peace  
in doing his work  
because he lives with you,  
forever and ever.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings focus on the virtue of humility as the true witness to truth.

The first reading speaks of a king who is powerful yet rides on a donkey, a symbol of lowliness or humility. This king will not be a war lord but a bringer of peace. That is cause for rejoicing.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus rejoices that God, creator of heaven and earth, has chosen to reveal divine truths to the humble. Jesus tells us he reveals God—invites us to imitate him in his humility and gentleness. He, like the humble king of our first reading, is the bringer of peace.

### FIRST READING: *Zechariah 9:9-10*

*This is a reading from the prophet Zechariah.*

Our God says,

“Rejoice and be glad!  
Shout for joy, daughter of Jerusalem!  
Look, your king is coming!  
He is powerful and just,  
and yet he is riding on a donkey.  
He will take away all weapons of war,  
for this king will proclaim peace to all nations.  
And his kingdom will go  
to the very ends of the earth.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSE: *Psalm 118*

RESPONSE:

All: Leader:

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the

All: (Fine)

name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord.

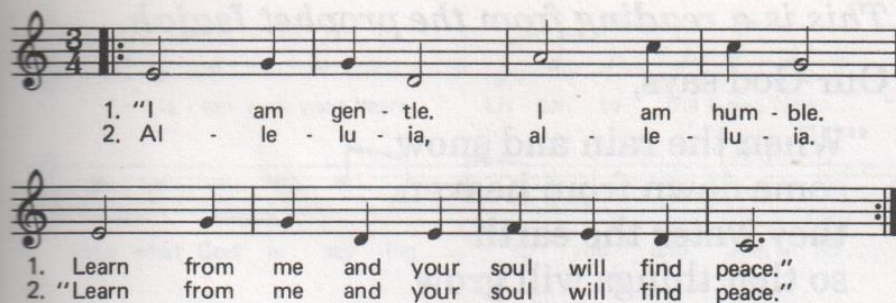
1st time: Leader; 2nd time: All

1 to Verse 2 to Response

1. I will be glad
  2. I will re-joice
  3. I will give thanks
  4. For I am saved
- } in the name of the Lord... name of the Lord...



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



1. "I am gen - tle. I am hum - ble.  
2. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1. Learn from me and your soul will find peace."  
2. "Learn from me and your soul will find peace."

## GOSPEL: *Matthew 11:25-30*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

One day, after Jesus had been teaching his disciples, he prayed,

"I thank you, God of heaven and earth.  
I thank you because you show your ways  
to people who are like little children.  
They understand your ways better than people  
who think they are clever and wise."

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

"God has given me everything.  
No one really knows God except God's Son.  
And the Son can show God  
to anyone he chooses.  
Come to me, all of you  
who are tired or worried,  
and I will give you rest.  
Learn from me, for I am gentle,  
and my heart is humble.  
And when you are with me,  
your soul will be at peace  
because the things I ask you to do  
are not too hard,  
and I help you do them."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Humility and gentleness are sometimes taken for weakness in our society. The scriptures tell us they are the way of God. But we must be sure the children have a proper understanding of humility. It is not silence, timidity, or the self-abasement often found in some books on spirituality. Biblical humility means simply to know oneself and to accept oneself as one is. Humility is the truth about oneself—not pretending to be better or worse.

After the first reading, ask the children, "What did you hear?" When the children have shared this, you might ask why they think the prophet Zechariah talked about a king riding on a donkey? What else does the prophet say about this king? Who do you think the prophet was talking about? Remind the children that this is what Jesus did on Palm Sunday.

After the Gospel, ask the children why they think Jesus likes the ways of people who are like little children?

Help the children see that, in fact, most children are open to truth and goodness. Children tend to trust those who teach them. Children tend to accept others and to be happy with simple things. Most children try to be good and to please others. Help them to see that this is what Jesus calls humility and gentleness and that he wants us always to live that way.

Jesus also tells us that when we are worried or find the way difficult, we can go to him; he will help us. When we are with him, we can have peace, and he will help us do whatever we have to do.

We have many images of Jesus in scripture: teacher, shepherd, king, Lord, and so forth. Our image today is Jesus as our friend. Help the children realize that Jesus is their friend, and they, too, can go to him.