

**TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of mercy,
Jesus showed us how much
you really love us
by dying on the cross
for our sake.
Give us the generosity
to follow him
and spend our lives
helping other people.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

There is not a unifying focus between the first reading and the Gospel. The reading from Wisdom focuses on "How can I know the will of God?" Humanly speaking, it is impossible. It is the presence of God's Spirit that teaches us discernment.

The passage for today's Gospel is part of Luke's teachings on the cost of discipleship. The focus is again the need to be ready to give up everything to follow Jesus. The parable of the builder tells us that living as a disciple is not a haphazard adventure. We must consciously make decisions about how we will act. Discipleship is a choice, and it requires daily decisions.

FIRST READING: *Wisdom 9:13, 16-18*

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Who can really understand God completely?
Who can really understand
what God thinks or what God does?

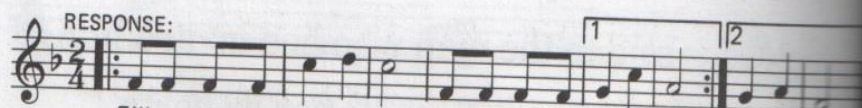
Sometimes we don't even understand
what happens here on earth,
so how can we understand the things of heaven?

But you, our God,
have given your Holy Spirit to us.
You have given us your gift of wisdom
so that we can understand
what you want us to do.
With your Spirit,
we can know what pleases you.

The Word of the Lord.


RESPONSE: *Psalm 90*

RESPONSE:



Fill us with your gift of love. Help us find our joy in you. joy in you.

VERSES:



1. God, our God, ev-er-last - ing, may our hearts al-ways turn to you.
2. God, our God, ev-er-last - ing, help us know what to do to - day.

**TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Forgiving God,
Jesus died
to wash away our sins.
We are sorry for all the wrong
we have done,
and we promise,
with your help,
to love you even more.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on the mercy of God. In the first reading, Moses pleads for his people, appealing to God's love already manifest in bringing the people out of Egypt and making a covenant with them. He acts as mediator between his people and God.

The Gospel tells us that God, imaged by the shepherd and the woman, seeks out those who are lost and rejoices at their finding.

Both readings reveal a God who loves us and wants to save us. We cannot save/find ourselves. Moses declares, "It was *you* who saved them." And Luke gives us two lovely parables in which God (the shepherd) seeks the lost sheep and rejoices when it is found. And it is God (the woman) who will not rest until the coin is found and rejoices when she finds it!

"Come and celebrate! The lost has been found!" God's loving mercy is always with us.

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
A reading from the book of Exodus.

God said to Moses,

"Go and talk to your people,
for they have turned away from me.
They have made an animal out of metal,
and they are telling the people that it is a god.
Now they are worshipping that animal,
made out of metal, instead of me."

Then God said,

"These people are very stubborn.
And now I am angry,
and I am going to punish them for their sins."

Moses prayed for the people. He said to God,

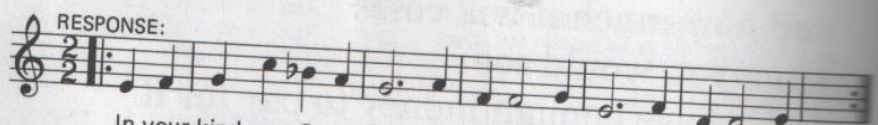
"But these are good people.
It was you who saved them
by taking them out of Egypt.
You made a covenant with Abraham
and promised him that his people would be great
and would live in the land you would give them.
So don't be angry with your people now."

So God decided not to punish them.

The Word of the Lord.

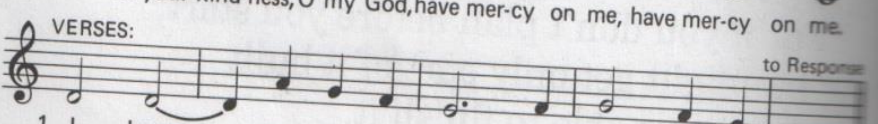
RESPONSE: Psalm 51

RESPONSE:




In your kind-ness, O my God, have mer-cy on me, have mer-cy on me.

VERSES:



1. I know that I have sinned and done what is wrong.
2. O God for-give my sins and make my heart true.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



① "Come and cel - e-brate with me, [clap] for the lost has been
found," Al - le - lu - ia, ② "The lost has been found." Al - le - lu - ia!