

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday July 5 for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, you invite us to come to you when we are weary and find life burdensome. You do not promise to remove our burdens, but you do promise to help us carry them and to give us refreshment when we are tired. Be with us today as we share your Word. Bless us with your wisdom and discernment so that we may know the message you have for us. Amen.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

25 At that time Jesus exclaimed:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to little ones.

26 Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

28 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Mt. 11:25-30

[11:25–27] This Q saying, identical with Lk 10:21–22 except for minor variations, introduces a joyous note into this section, so dominated by the theme of unbelief. While the wise and the learned, the scribes and Pharisees, have rejected Jesus' preaching and the significance of his mighty deeds, the childlike have accepted them. Acceptance depends upon the Father's revelation, but this is granted to those who are open to receive it and refused to the arrogant. Jesus can speak of all mysteries because he is the Son and there is perfect reciprocity of knowledge between him and the Father; what has been handed over to him is revealed only to those whom he wishes.

[11:28–29] These verses are peculiar to Matthew and are similar to Ben Sirach's invitation to learn wisdom and submit to her yoke (Sir 51:23, 26).

[11:28] Who labor and are burdened: burdened by the law as expounded by the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 23:4).

[11:29] In place of the yoke of the law, complicated by scribal interpretation, Jesus invites the burdened to take the yoke of obedience to his word, under which they will find rest; cf. Jer 6:16.

SILENT REFLECTION

GOSPEL BACKGROUND: Taken from Ascension Catholic Lectionary Commentary

This Gospel begins with Jesus' shout of joy, not on account of the so-called "wise and learned" who do not recognize his true identity, but for the "little ones" with humble and open hearts who 'get it.' A 'know it-all' attitude is a huge block hindering us from receiving God's self-revelation. Jesus speaks about the special and unique relationship that exists between him and his Father. It is really a statement about the divinity of Christ. In Jesus we find the Wisdom of God. He reveals the mind and heart of God to us.

The reading ends with Jesus' beautiful invitation to the "heavy burdened" to come to him. The Pharisees and scribes have made the Law of Moses a heavy burden by adding to it a multitude of legalisms. On another level, faith in Christ helps all of us to deal with the burdens of life.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

What verse or image in the readings caught your attention or drew you in? Any idea why? Was there a verse or aspect of the readings that challenged you?

Additional Questions if time permits:

What makes you "shout for joy"?

What might cause us or others to live self-sufficient lives independent of God?

Can you name any heavy burden or cross that has turned out to be a blessing?

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is gentle and humble of heart. Who models this spirit for you?

What can help us grow in gentleness and humility?

Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciple of Jesus need to heed and act on.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Starting June 28 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 28, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGbIZSM2xZcWpGZz09qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpWAHYigb_zziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjb_UbH70pMcL8

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGbIZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586

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event

Organizer: Blessed Sacrament Parish

