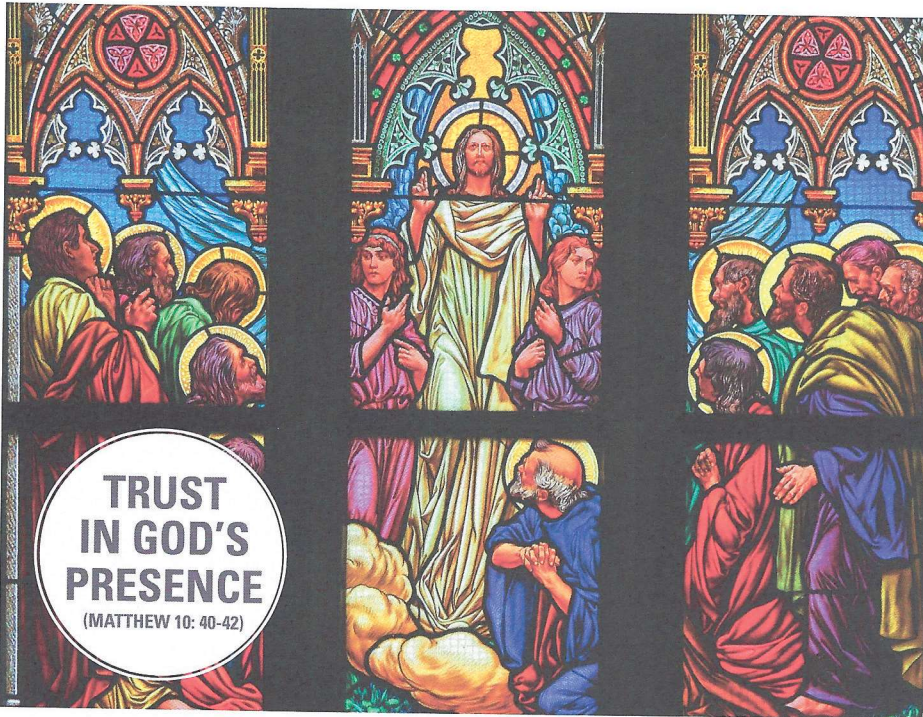


Sunday Message

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

THE WORD

Year A • 2 July 2023 • Psalter Week 1



Stained Glass in the Basilica of Vysehrad in Prague, Czech Republic, depicting Jesus speaking to his disciples

Over the past few weeks in Matthew's Gospel, we have heard about the dangers and trials confronting the disciples as they seek to spread the Word of God in communities.

Understandably, there is an atmosphere of fear and trepidation amongst the group as they encounter opposition to their message and reluctance amongst people to hear the Word of God for what it really is. A lot of the relationships between the disciples and their families and society have been lost as they attempt to plot a new course of dialogue and prayer between God and his people.

Today's Gospel, however, offers a welcome contrast for the disciples as Jesus offers them a glimpse of the fruits of their work as preachers and teachers. They will receive a prophet's reward. They will be welcomed into the homes of people just as Jesus Christ is welcomed. And those who offer them even the smallest cup of cold water to help them on their journey, will also receive a great reward. So we can sense at the very end of this chapter in Matthew's Gospel, that the trials which will most definitely come the disciples' way, will be counterbalanced by rewards that will have far greater impact. The disciples will be vulnerable like children but their future work will be dependent on trusting in God's power and presence in their lives. ■

LEARN

'If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.' (Meister Eckhart)

DO

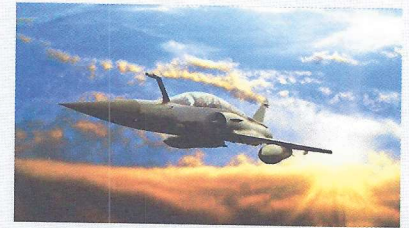
Think of one person in your life whose support you value and take the time this week to say thank you.

SAY

Teach me your ways, O Lord; make them known to me. Teach me to live according to your truth, for you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you. (Psalm 25)

REFLECT

Captain Charles Plumb was a fighter pilot for the US Navy during the Vietnam war. His now infamous story will be told for generations to come.



His plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile and he spent six years as a prisoner of war in a Vietnamese prison. He survived this difficult time in his life and now spends his time lecturing students on what he learnt from the experience.

One night he was sitting in a restaurant with his wife and a man came over to his table and said, 'You're Captain Plumb. You flew fighter jets in Vietnam and you were shot down.' 'How in the world did you know that?' said Plumb. 'I packed your parachute,' said the man, 'and I guess it worked.' Plumb replied, 'It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.'

When Charles Plumb tells this story to an audience, he always asks the question, 'Who's packing your parachute?' In other words, who are the people in your life that support you? Do you thank them for all they do for you? Do you even recognise who these people are? When Charles Plumb was on board the Navy ship, pilots never spoke to the parachute packers. How many times had he passed him by on the ship and never said 'hello' or 'thank you' for the work he was doing?

Sometimes we lose sight of the people who provide us with the spiritual, emotional and physical support that helps us live our lives. Jesus opens the eyes of the disciples today to show them that God's support and love will always be a part of their lives and their mission. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness
of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light
of truth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second Book of Kings
One day as Elisha was on his way to
Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there
pressed him to stay and eat there. After this
he always broke his journey for a meal when
he passed that way. She said to her husband,
"Look, I am sure the man who is constantly
passing our way must be a holy man of God.
Let us build him a small room on the roof,
and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair
and lamp; whenever he comes to us, he can
rest there."

One day when he came, he retired to the
upper room and lay down. "Where can be
done for her?" he asked. Gehazi, his servant,
answered, "Well, she has no son, and her
husband is old." Elisha said, "Call her." The
servant called her, and she stood at the door.
"This time next year," Elisha said, "you will
hold a son in your arms."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 88:2-3, 16-19

Response:

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

- 1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim
your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for
ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens. (R.)
- 2. Happy the people who acclaim such a
king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their
bliss. (R.)
- 3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of
their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is
exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of
Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we
were baptised in his death; in other words,
when we were baptised, we went into the
tomb with him and joined him in death, so
that as Christ was raised from the dead by the
Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ
we shall return to life with him: Christ, as
we know, having been raised from the dead
will never die again. Death has no power
over him anymore. When he died, he died,
once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with
God; and in that way, you too must consider
yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God
in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 10: 37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:
"Anyone who prefers father or mother to
me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers
son or daughter to me is not worthy of me.
Anyone who does not take his cross and
follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.
Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone
who loses his life for my sake will find it.
"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me;
and those who welcome me welcome the
one who sent me. "Anyone who welcomes a
prophet because he is a prophet will have a
prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes
a holy man because he is a holy man will
have a holy man's reward.

"If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold
water to one of these little ones because he
is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will
most certainly not lose his reward."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish
the effects of your mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that the deeds by which we serve you
may be worthy of these sacred gifts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and
received
fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,
so that, bound to you in lasting charity,
we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"To love means loving the unlovable. To
forgive means pardoning the unpardonable.
Faith means believing the unbelievable.
Hope means hoping when everything seems
hopeless."

Ronald Rolheiser OMI