



AMDG  
28TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
14TH OCTOBER 2018



**The Word of God  
is alive and active**

OPENING PRAYER

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.

As we ponder our readings this week, we may well consider what riches mean to us; what we really value in our lives, our work, our relationships.

The author of the Book of Wisdom, the *First Reading*, esteems wisdom as the greatest treasure – she is seen as a person closely identified with the Spirit, and the writer prefers her to any other value; everything else is as nothing.

The verses of the *Psalms* given to us are a prayer for that wisdom, and for love, joy and the favour of the Lord, so that we can live our short lives to the utmost.

In the *Second Reading*, the Word of God, in the Scriptures or in the person of Jesus, is a living force opening us to the Spirit of God. It continually challenges us: we have no other hiding place.

The *Gospel* describes the rich man who wishes to follow Jesus but is held back by his great wealth. However, God's generosity will far outweigh any sacrifice we make.

As we look at the rich man of the Gospel this week, in the midst of our own busy lives, we may consider the quality, rather than the quantity, of our service in God's Kingdom.

## FIRST READING WISDOM 7: 7-11

**I** prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.  
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;  
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.  
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,  
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,  
and beside her silver ranks as mud.  
I loved her more than health or beauty,  
preferred her to the light,  
since her radiance never sleeps.  
In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

As I prepare to pray, I begin by relaxing my mind and body.

I offer this time to the Lord, gently breathing in his life and love.

When I am ready I read the text, taking the time to enter into the poetic language of the passage.

In what way does the personification of Wisdom help me enter into the mystery of God, of the holy Trinity?

Maybe the reading helps me contemplate Christ, who is the Wisdom of God?

Or do I identify more with Wisdom as the Spirit of God?

I spend time with what draws me in this passage.

How precious to me is this Wisdom?

What gifts of God do I appreciate most, or maybe need to ask for?

Perhaps I can ask the Father for the gift of his Wisdom?

I speak to the Lord, opening my heart to receive what he offers to me today.

I remember all those struggling in their life or in their faith, and ask the Lord to fill them with his Wisdom.

I draw my prayer to a close in gratitude for God's love and generosity.

## GOSPEL MARK 10: 17–30 (PART)

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, ‘Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’ And he said to him, ‘Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.’ Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, ‘There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!’ The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, ‘My children,’ he said to them, ‘how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were more astonished than ever. ‘In that case’, they said to one another, ‘who can be saved?’ Jesus gazed at them. ‘For men’, he said, ‘it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.’

I come to my place of prayer and take time to settle and become aware of being in God’s presence.

I read the Gospel a couple of times. How do I feel?

Eager, like the young man who came running up to Jesus, or weary and anxious?

I remember that God looks at me steadily and loves me ...

As I rest under God’s loving gaze, do I wish to ask him for anything?

Or do I feel he is asking something of me? I spend some time speaking to the Lord, or maybe I prefer to remain silent in his love.

I know that he knows everything, understands everything.

Do I share the apostles’ astonishment at Jesus’s words?

As I ponder the Lord’s invitation to follow him, I may want to ask for an even greater trust in him for whom all things are possible.

I slowly end my prayer with a ‘*Glory be to the Father ...*’

## Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. *First Reading*

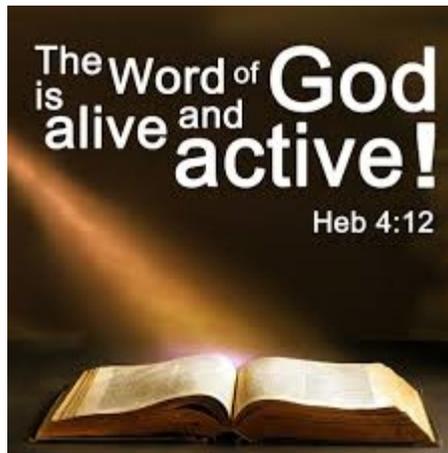
Fill us with your love that we may rejoice. *Psalm*

The word of God is something alive and active. *Second Reading*

Come, follow me. *Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further:*

*Wisdom 7: 7–11; Ps 89 (90); Hebrews 4: 12–13; Mark 10: 17–30*



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