

want you to do us a favour.’ He said to them, ‘What is it you want me to do for you?’ They said to him, ‘Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.’ ‘You do not know what you are asking’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?’ They replied, ‘We can.’ Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.’

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, ‘You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

17 OCTOBER 2021

GREATNESS THROUGH SERVICE

James and John were two especially privileged disciples. Called on the first day of Jesus’ ministry with Peter and Andrew, they were special witnesses to the raising of Jairus’ daughter and to the Transfiguration. While the other disciples knew this, they were not prepared for their audacious and ambitious request to share in Jesus’ reign. Jesus had no sooner predicted, for the second time, the fate that awaited him in Jerusalem than they revealed their complete failure to comprehend Jesus’ message. Their request unmasked their ambition and desire for power. Service and giving oneself for others are to be the hallmark of the Christian community, and the manner in which greatness is to be expressed. Like the suffering servant of Isaiah who takes on the punishment which is due to others Jesus will give his life so that others might live. This is what is required of those who would be leaders in the Christian community.

In speaking of Jesus as the great and eternal high priest there was the danger that early Christians would then feel in some way distant from the one who had saved them. The letter to the Hebrews makes the point that even though Jesus’ death and resurrection have brought him into the highest heaven he has not lost sight of the people. That Jesus was without sin does not mean that he does not understand our human situation. He has shared our human experience and is therefore able to mediate on our behalf with mercy and grace.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 53:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs and have long life.

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul’s anguish over he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord. is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord is our help and our shield. / May your love be upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to



the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. ‘Master,’ they said to him, ‘we