

Sunday Message

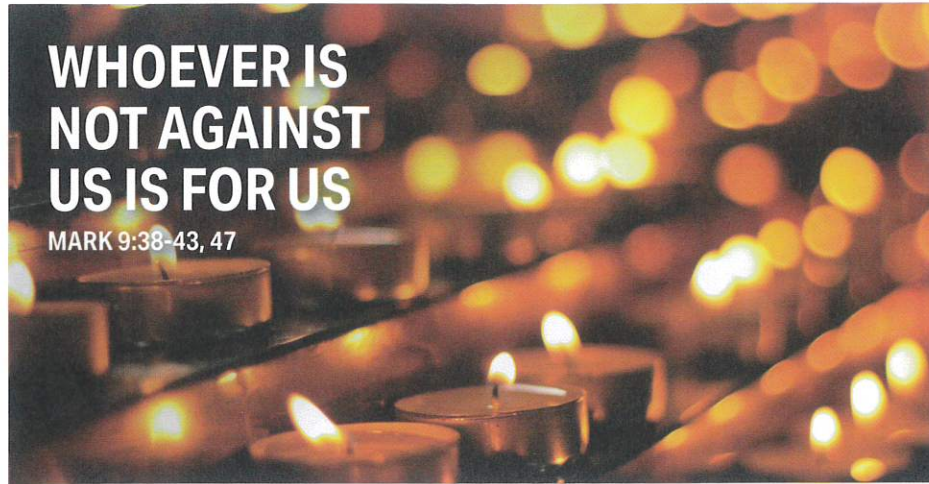
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 29 September 2024 • Psalter Week 2

WHOEVER IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US

MARK 9:38-43, 47



There is an exorcist working separately in the community and outside the remit of Jesus and his disciples. By all accounts from this Gospel, he seems to be doing good work and brings healing to the lives of people and doing so in the name of Jesus.

This could be described as a tricky issue for the disciples as earlier in this Gospel, they failed to free a person from the spirit of dumbness. They were unsuccessful and now to make matters worse, there is another exorcist in town who seems to be making an impact within the community.

It is within this context that the disciples approach Jesus and it is clear what their goal is. They want Jesus to reject this outsider. The disciples see him perhaps as a rival and a threat to their own role. Jesus, however, does not see this new person as a threat. As a matter of fact, he embraces him and his good work. "Anyone who is not against us is for us." The disciples once again receive a new teaching. ■

DO

Think of concrete ways you can go out to your community and bring the love and tenderness of God to the lives of others. No action is too small.

SAY

"Whoever is not against us is for us."

LEARN

The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness. Pope Benedict XVI



REFLECT

As a result of society's experience with COVID, many people fell in love with running and walking. When told we could walk within a 5km radius of our homes, we put on the runners and did something that normally wouldn't have been part of our day. We went out and met people. It was healthy and brought us into contact with others who were in the same boat as ourselves. Running and walking clubs have never been as plentiful and a new wave of fitness events have been born. Being part of a group or club brings with it obvious benefits and as Professor David Small says, "the presence of others will accord us validity, identity and reality. You cannot be anything if you are not recognised as something." We have perhaps rediscovered the value of interaction and being part of a group. For this group of disciples in today's Gospel, they have reached a point where they hope to be recognised and accepted in Jesus' name. With this recognition will come validity and identity. Their group has



become established under the leadership of Jesus, but an issue emerges when they fail to show the same recognition and hospitality to those outside of their prestigious circle. We might have some experience ourselves of being part of a group that becomes exclusive and fails to welcome the outsider. Jesus tries to broaden our horizons today by encouraging

us to be tolerant of those who exist outside of our group, outside of our Church. Scripture Scholar Denis McBride states that such tolerance in our Christian faith "is a reverence for the truth that is always larger than ourselves; it is a profound respect for the freedom of God to move in his chosen ways." ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

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 manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, "Look," he said "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, "My Lord Moses, stop them!" Moses answered him, "Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!"

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 18 (19):8,10,12-14

Response:

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
3. So in them your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)
4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. (R.)

SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him." But Jesus said, "You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

"If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

"But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be

thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out."

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

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

