



AWAKEN

June 30, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Becoming Disciples of the Word

Sunday's

READINGS

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15
Mark 5:21–43

Scan the code to read today's readings. ➔



Opening PRAYER

Lord God, in your goodness you have created us. When we rejected you, you offered us redemption. Help us to know the depth of your love. Amen.



Thoughts for REFLECTION

Do you believe we are created broken, or are we created good? How does this belief affect the way you understand your relationship with God?

How does that difference affect the way you see other human beings?

Awaken is written and edited by Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.



What You NEED to KNOW

Scripture Background

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24

The Book of Wisdom was written 100 to 200 years before the birth of Christ. It is directed toward the Jews who were living outside of Judea, those who did not return from the Exile. Wisdom challenges the Jews living outside of Judea to remain faithful to their covenant with God. Today's reading summarizes God's revelation in the creation accounts. God is completely good. Therefore, everything God creates and intends is good. The last verse of the reading responds to the first verse. God did not create death. Death is the consequence of evil. Even so, God's justice, his desire for each person to have eternal life, will triumph.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15

Here, Saint Paul imparts Jesus' understanding of justice. Paul has a special fondness for the Corinthians; therefore, he begins with praise for their right actions. Then, he gets to the heart of the matter. Is Jesus' teaching on justice being lived in this community? Paul speaks of the rich and poor. Corinth was a seaport town with people who were very rich or very

poor. Paul clarifies that in giving, we receive. Justice is the root of equality. When there is justice, all people have what they need.

Mark 5:21–43

Mark tells us that Jesus returned to Galilee from Gentile territory. Back in Judea, Mark emphasizes Jesus' mission to the Israelites by placing a story inside of a story. This passage opens with a synagogue official who asks Jesus to heal his dying daughter. On the way, Jesus encounters a woman who for many years was plagued by a condition that causes a loss of blood and who is desperate to be healed. Because of her illness, this woman was considered impure and was therefore isolated from society. Jesus is her last hope. She reaches for him. The crowd is so large she can only reach the hem of his cloak. It is enough. She is healed. Jesus restores her to health. He then gives life to the young girl. Even though the woman and the girl had experienced different kinds of death, Jesus has the power to give them both new life.



PFLAUM GOSPEL WEEKLIES Faith Formation Program



Points to Ponder

Living Upside Down

Today's readings ask us as disciples to reflect upon our own understanding of justice. Looking at the broader picture, we are being challenged to take on the mind and heart of Christ. You may be familiar with the Prayer of Saint Francis. Every sentence of the prayer turns our human limited perception upside down. Consider this phrase, "it is in giving that we receive." It makes absolutely no sense in our human experience. We lose when we give. Or, could the words of the prayer actually be true? Research points to the fact that happiness is the consequence of relationship, of love. Love always includes sacrifice. When we make sacrifices, when we give to another, we experience happiness. When our hearts understand and live this truth, we are making God's Kingdom visible. Disciples live in an upside-down world that happens when we truly hear the Word of God.

- In a consumerist culture, how do we spread the good news of justice and equality?
- In what way do today's readings emphasize these words of Scripture: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8)?



Lord Jesus, you are truly present. Amen!

In the Blessed Sacrament, he is there. He is there in his divinity, in his humanity, and in his personality.

—Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Visit the Pflaum Eucharist resources page.



and CHURCH TEACHING

Connecting **GOSPEL**

Jesus' Garment

Have you ever considered that Jesus' garment in the Gospel is a representation of the Church? The woman experienced healing as she desperately reached for any part of Jesus she could touch. The *Catechism*, quoting the Council document *Lumen gentium*, tells us: "The Church is Christ's instrument... at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God's love for men" (CCC, 776). Remembering that all the baptized are the Church wherever we are,

we are called to reveal God's love at home, at work, at sporting events, and through the Church. Pope Francis describes the Church as a field hospital. Like the young girl and the woman in today's Gospel, many people in the world today are literally and figuratively dying. How do we offer them the life of Christ? The Church universal, each parish and each disciple, must answer that question each day.

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 776 and 811–822 or go to Booklet 10, Session 1 in *Growing Faith*.



Closing PRAYER

Lord, our God, the challenges of discipleship are insurmountable without your grace. Cover us with grace so that we may manifest your Kingdom. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



Question of the Week
How is our family the at-home Church?



Family Prayer
Holy Spirit, help us to see that our home is a place where disciples grow. Amen.

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