

14th Sunday of the Year A

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this: "Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth."

Second Reading Romans 8:9.11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers and sisters, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Meditation

Jesus' mission has suffered a setback in the cities of Galilee. Despite the miracles he performed there, Jesus was not welcome. He turns once more to prayer to discover his Father's plan, to revel in his goodness, and to reiterate in a vibrant Magnificat the happiness of the poor.

Drawing from the treasures of scripture, Jesus sings a hymn of praise to his Father. His renewed vision unveils the paradox of a salvation hidden from the learned and the clever but revealed to the humble ones who follow him. Jesus plays an unparalleled role in this revelation because his privileged relationship with God is sustained and tested within this calm centre of prayer.

He is the Son by nature. Only he can know the essence of God as Father, and only he can inform his disciples of this mystery of love. The union of the Son with the Father finds expression in the prayer of Jesus. Each Christian is called upon to join in that prayer. To pray with Jesus is to allow the Spirit to pray within us by opening us to God's presence. This makes us children ready to do the will of God and ready to stand in awe with the Son before the marvels of grace.