



# Twenty Ninth Sunday Of The Year Authority As Service

## Introduction

Most people see authority as a chance to promote their own honour and glory. But Christ saw it very differently. He saw it as an opportunity to serve others. This is not easy. We naturally think of ourselves first. Even the apostles did, as we shall see in today's Gospel. We are all selfish. Every sin is a sin of selfishness. Today during this Eucharist let us ask forgiveness for putting ourselves always before others, and sometimes even before God.

## First Reading (Isaiah 53:10-11).

This reading tells of a man who takes on himself all the sins and sorrows of the world in order to remove them. It found its fulfillment in Christ.

## Second Reading (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus was like us in all things except sin. Hence, he knows our weaknesses. This should make it easy for us to approach him.

## Gospel (Mark 10:35-45).

Jesus overturns all our values by declaring that the one who serves is the greatest. He lived this out to the full in his own life.

## Prayer Of The Faithful

"The greatest is the one who serves", says Jesus. Mindful of this let us pray to the Father for a true spirit of service for all the followers of Jesus, especially those in positions of authority.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the pope and the bishops: that they may be true servants of Christ's flock, guiding it with the same spirit of loving service that Christ showed. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



## Liturgy Cycle B

For all those who hold public office: that they may be people of integrity and humility who sincerely serve those under them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who are down-trodden and oppressed, victims of tyrannical authority: that they may achieve their liberation. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may not seek our own honour and glory; rather, after the example of Christ, may we strive to make our neighbour's needs as dear to us as our own. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

### Communion Reflection

In plain language James and John were two opportunists.

Their one aim was to rise in the ranks.

To achieve their end they do not hesitate to grovel and to beg.

They do not mind how much envy and resentment they arouse in their companions.

Their aim is to scramble up the career ladder.

But at 'what price to themselves?

If in the course of his rise to the top,

a man loses himself, his own soul,

whatever he does or achieves will be worthless.

It's amazing what power and all that goes with it money, privilege, rank. status —

can do to a human being, especially to his heart.

If a person's heart is hardened,

he is no better than a withered tree.

Let us not forget:

it is by giving that we receive,

and it is by this serving that we grow in love.