

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



### ***THE GOSPEL. Matthew 11:25-30***

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls*

O Lord,  
we are indeed burdened.  
we have poisoned our  
air, neglected our  
inequalities, and  
children are hungry.

“Christ  
came that  
The Bread might hunger,  
that The Fountain might thirst,  
that The Way might be tired on his journey,  
that The Truth might be accused of false witness,  
that The Healer might be  
wounded.”\* St. Augustine

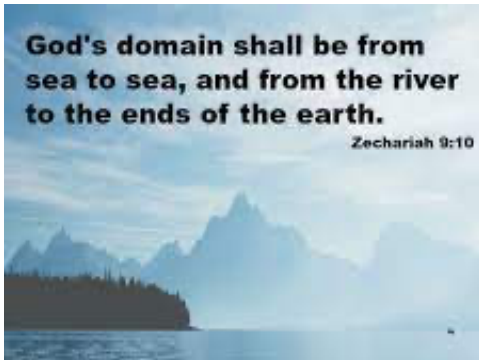
Lord,  
You know our humanity well, and all the trouble  
we can get into. So, Jesus, we come to you.  
Please show us your heavenly Father,  
who loves every hair on our head.  
Let us learn from you, follow you,  
and find rest.

### ***THE FIRST READING: Zecharia 9:9-10***



*See, your king shall come to you; a  
just savior is he,  
meek, and riding on an donkey.*

The King proclaims justice.  
banishes war, and puzzles  
the proud. Jesus, Messiah,  
though is meek, riding on a donkey.



Oh lowly King of the Universe,  
be our strength.  
Assert your peace now, from sea  
to sea.

## THE SECOND READING Romans 8:9, 11-13

*The one who raised Christ from the dead  
will give life to your mortal bodies also,  
through his Spirit that dwells in you.*

Our lowly flesh,

Tinged with joy,  
weighed down  
with woe,

Christ takes as his own.

His Holy Spirit  
comes to us, to  
dwell in our hearts  
as they are.

Lord, let us  
revere these soul-bodies  
and those of our  
neighbors,

Because of you. (*Annie Osdieck*)

## Reflection from Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP



### Resting in God's Gaze

We have invented clever machines which should enable us to rest: washing machines, dishwashers, microwaves, smartphones. Yet we are busier than ever, fretfully texting, messaging, phoning.

**Maybe we fear to face ourselves.** This is to forget who we are. In the myths of Israel's neighbors, such as the Canaanites, the gods created human beings to be their slaves. Humans were supposed to do all the cooking and cleaning, and offering sacrifices so that the gods could loll around in the heavens, eating and drinking. But the God of Israel did something utterly scandalous. He invited us to share his Sabbath rest. It is as if Lord Grantham in *Downton Abbey* were to invite a young footman to put up his feet and take a seat at the dining room table.

**What is this rest that God desires for us?** "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." The Father and the Son rest in each other's gaze. It is here, in the gentle gaze of our God, that we find the tranquility for which we long. *Each of us is called to transmit this peace and receive it in how we gaze at each other.*

**A story** from the ancient Desert Fathers shows that sometimes words are not necessary. It is enough to delight in the presence of another. Three of the desert fathers used to visit the great St. Antony each year. Two used the occasion to ask him questions. The third was always silent, and when Antony asked him why he bothered to come, he said: "It is enough for me to see you, Father."

