

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**  
**The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
- 2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17
- 3) Luke 14:25-33

**FOCUS:** Faithful discipleship demands complete surrender to God.

While each of us can name important people and relationships in our lives that have a claim on our hearts, the Scriptures today remind us of what needs to be the highest priority for each of us. Jesus unequivocally states that just as he will lay down his life on the cross, each of us who wish to be faithful disciples will be asked to make sacrifices in our own lives.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The author of the Book of Wisdom observes that it can be difficult to comprehend God's ways, pointing out that *what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out?* Saint Paul writes to Philemon from prison, asking him to welcome Onesimus as a brother, not a slave. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the crowd, saying: *Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Trusting in his love for us, we bring these prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That those who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ in the Church may be blessed with strength and perseverance to remain faithful to their promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be led by the Spirit in attending to the needs of the weakest and most vulnerable, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from illness or disease may be comforted by the presence of Christ walking with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may be blessed with the grace to let go of the things of this world in order to pursue the things of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may live in the light and peace of God's presence in heaven forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, knowing that we never walk alone, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.