

Sunday, September 10, 2023
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) Ezekiel 33:7-9
- 2) Romans 13:8-10
- 3) Matthew 18:15-20

FOCUS: Jesus is present when we gather together and love one another.

The liturgical gathering makes Christ present in numerous ways, such as through the proclamation of the word of God and in the Eucharist. Perhaps the most overlooked reality of Christ's presence comes through the physical gathering of God's people, who are instructed to owe nothing to anyone except love. This love between us makes God presence visible on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel, in today's first reading, is appointed watchman to guide his people in the ways of the Lord. In the second reading, Paul describes to the Roman Church how love fulfills the entire law and satisfies every commandment. The Gospel includes Jesus' instructions for navigating conflict and correcting those who sin. He concludes by saying that he is present when people gather in his name for prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts open to the will of God, we place our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the universal Church and all believers, may Jesus Christ reign in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in working for justice, fairness, and peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lost or hurting, may the peace and compassion of Christ guide them to spiritual and physical healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may the Eucharistic banquet nourish our souls with the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God grant them complete union with Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, you bend your ear to us despite our waywardness and distracted hearts. We entrust these prayers and our very selves to you, through Christ our Lord.