

## 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

### 1st. READING (Wis 9, 13-18)

Indeed, what man can know the intentions of God? Who can discern the plan of the Lord? For human reasoning is timid, our notions misleading; a perishable body is a burden for the soul and our tent of clay weighs down the active mind. We are barely able to know about the things of earth and it is a struggle to understand what is close to us; who then may hope to understand heavenly things? Who has ever known your will unless you first gave him Wisdom and sent down your holy spirit to him? In this way you directed the human race on the right path; they learned what pleases you and were saved by Wisdom.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 90)

You turn humans back to dust, saying,  
"Return, O mortals!"  
A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has passed,  
or like a watch in the night.

You sow them in their time,  
at dawn they peep out.  
In the morning they blossom,  
but the flower fades and withers in the evening.

So make us know the shortness of our life,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
How long will you be angry, O Lord?  
Have mercy on your servant.

Fill us at daybreak with your goodness,  
that we may be glad all our days.  
May the sweetness of the Lord be upon us;  
may he prosper the work of our hands.

**2nd. READING (Phlm 9-10.12-17)**

The one talking is Paul, the old man, now prisoner for Christ. And my request is on behalf of Onesimus, whose father I have become while I was in prison. In returning him to you, I am sending you my own heart. I would have liked to keep him at my side, to serve me on your behalf while I am in prison for the Gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your agreement, nor impose a good deed upon you without your free consent. Perhaps Onesimus has been parted from you for a while so that you may have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but better than a slave. For he is a very dear brother to me, and he will be even dearer to you. And so, because of our friendship, receive him as if he were I myself.

**GOSPEL (Lk 14, 25-33)**

One day, when large crowds were walking along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "If you come to me, without being ready to give up your love for your father and mother, your spouse and children, your brothers and sisters, and indeed yourself, you cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me carrying his own cross cannot be my disciple. Do you build a house without first sitting down to count the cost to see whether you have enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you have laid the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone will make fun of you: 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' And when a king wages war against another king, does he go to fight without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand can stand against the twenty thousand of his opponent? And if not, while the other is still a long way off he sends messengers for peace talks. In the same way, none of you may become my disciple if he doesn't give up everything he has.