

Connecting Music to Mass October 30, 2016

Today's readings are found at #1184 in the hymnal.

The gospel story today is that of Zacchaeus the tax collector – the man who so wanted to see Jesus, that he climbed a sycamore tree to get a view! It's interesting that the Lectionary is structured with last week's parable of the pharisee and the tax collector, and this story of Zacchaeus back-to-back. The mercy and salvation offered by God the father is emphasized through this sequence.

The First Reading from the Book of Wisdom proclaims the mercy and generosity that God has for all of his creation. Psalm 145, the responsorial psalm, gives praise to God for his mercy – ***“I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.”***

Back to Zacchaeus. The First Reading is closely tied in with the Gospel through quotes like, ***“... and you overlook people's sins that they may repent,”*** and, ***“that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord.”*** These quotes from Wisdom lead us to the mercy and proclamation of salvation that Jesus offers Zacchaeus. ***“Today salvation has come to this house.”*** The point is that Zacchaeus, a sinner, sought Jesus, and accepted Jesus into his home (read: life), which merited salvation.

The opening hymn “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (#724) offers consolation to seek and follow God, who offers us a place of rest, living water, and the light of his presence. This is a text of comfort and consolation, that ultimately points us to the promise of the resurrection. The closing hymn “The Kingdom of God” (#736) paints a picture for us of God's kingdom, where justice, mercy, joy, and grace are abundant. This text shares good news – “The captives are freed, the sinners find place, the outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share.” These are some of the people, like Zacchaeus, who are welcomed into God's kingdom. God's kingdom isn't exclusively for those who have lived saintly lives.

The communion song – “Center of My Life” – has a special connection to the liturgy today. Like the lectionary readings, and prayers that the priest prays at Mass that change every week, the Church also prescribes texts to be sung for the entrance, responsorial psalm, gospel acclamation, offertory, and communion. These are biblical texts, often psalms, that tie into the Liturgy of the Word or liturgical season. While we sing some of these regularly, the entrance, offertory, and communion propers aren't as commonly heard in a typical parish. This week, however, the church prescribes Psalm 16 for the communion proper – “Center of My Life” is a paraphrase of that same psalm. Like Zacchaeus, if we put God in the center of our life, we too will experience mercy, grace, and salvation.

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[Click here - Sunday Readings for October 30, 2016](#)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I



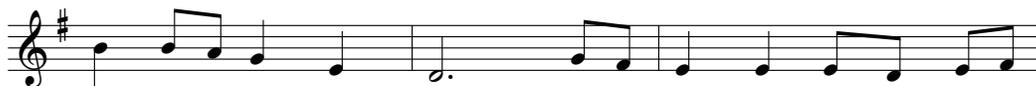
un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry
hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;
am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your



one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I
thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live." I
morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I



came to Je - sus as I was, So
came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
looked to Je - sus, and I found In



wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a
that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
him my star, my sun; And in that light of



rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

The Kingdom of God



1. The king - dom of God is jus - tice and joy;
2. The king - dom of God is mer - cy and grace;
3. The king - dom of God is chal - lenge and choice;
4. God's king - dom is come, the gift and the goal;



For Je - sus re - stores what sin would de - stroy.
The cap - tives are freed, the sin - ners find place,
Be - lieve the good news, re - pent and re - joice!
In Je - sus be - gun, in heav - en made whole.



God's pow - er and glo - ry in Je - sus we know;
The out - cast are wel - comed God's ban - quet to share;
God's love for us sin - ners brought Christ to his cross:
The heirs of the king - dom shall an - swer his call;



And here and here - af - ter the king - dom shall grow.
And hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.
Our cri - sis of judge - ment for gain or for loss.
And all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God all in all.