



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



## 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A

Fr. David Rosenberg

visit us at <http://HopeCrossingMinistries.com/>

*At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth..." Matt 11:25*

Jesus teaches us throughout His ministry that humility is an essential virtue of the human heart, a necessary condition in order to accept His revolutionary doctrine. In the previous chapters, those that were full of their own self-importance never got it. The Christian tradition unequivocally affirms that humility is a virtue. For this reason, the Gospel puts humility at the centre of the moral life in an unprecedented way. "...*although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.*" The "little ones" are those of humble heart.

In this passage, Jesus offers an exultant prayer of praise that defines for us more clearly who He is and with whom He wishes to be identified. Eminent scripture scholar, Père Lagrange, called the three words at the beginning of our Gospel reading, *at that time*, "Matthew's most precious pearl." He goes on to say that this marks a distinct turning of Jesus' teaching from chastisement to the depths of divine life. Ancient liturgical usage casts this phrase to awaken the listener's heart that, more than a mere event, a mystery of salvation is about to be proclaimed: the inbreaking and fusion of the eternal heavenly kingdom into this moment in mortal time.

For you, the humble listener, hearing this passage proclaimed moves from the mind, to the heart, to our mystical soul. It lifts us to *kairos*, that perfect timeless moment beyond the bounds of time, where Jesus can speak to the Father while He lives on earth. For all generations, His incarnate mystical Body, present in time, in-breaks through the eternal heavens, where the River of Life pours down through His pierced sacred heart, into "the source and summit of the Christian life" CCC 1324. In this passage, Matthew is preparing us for the profundity of the Last Supper, where Jesus gives us the gift of our Daily Bread, the Eucharist, our source and summit of Christian spirituality.

To the humble of heart, the Eucharist leaves us in awe, and suffused with mystery. Matthew leads us in this passage to a deeper understanding that the spiritual life means using every means available to grow closer to Christ. Because Christ Himself is present in the Eucharist, from this passage forward all Catholics should be formed in the centrality of Jesus Christ to our spiritual journey. In the Mass, we recall in *anamnesis* (a lifting of the past into the present moment), that Christ is present in the hearing of the proclaimed Word of God in Holy Scripture, the gathering of two or more in His Holy Name, and, most preeminently, in the Eucharist.

*"Come to me" (Matt 11:28) marks an end to our time of waiting. The bridegroom, Jesus, calls us, his mystical bride. The time for Mystical Union has begun. There are no sweeter words than these, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

This week, Jesus invites us to enter the divine life that He has opened up for us. May we reflect in the rest and quietude of our heart, this profound gift of joy, a joy that exceeds all mortal expectations.

*"Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple!" Ps 48*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

*"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to little ones.  
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.  
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.  
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."*

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for yourselves.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

***The Gospel of the Lord***