

[Online Ministries Home Page](#) | [Daily Reflections](#) | [Online Retreat](#) | [Stations of the Cross](#) | [Practical Spirituality](#) | [Spirituality Links](#)

[Return to the Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer](#) | [Tell a Friend about these Weekly Guides](#)

[Visit the Daily Reflections Each Day This Week](#)

[PDF of this page](#)

The Thirty-Third Week of Ordinary Time

The **Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time** brings us the familiar and powerful parable from **Matthew's Gospel** about the servants who are each given sums of money to invest. We are all called upon to use the gifts we have received as gifts, and to return them, fully developed and utilized.

Thursday is the **Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**.

In this next to the last week of the Liturgical Year, we read from the **First Book of Maccabees**. These books are about the revolt against Jewish persecution a little over a century before Christ. The Maccabees are presented as a family that is faithful to the law in the midst of this persecution. Their witness is inspiring today.

We have wonderful stories from **Luke's Gospel** this week as Jesus moves toward and enters Jerusalem for the end of his ministry. Jesus heals the blind beggar near Jericho. The man immediately "followed him, giving glory to God." Then Jesus meets Zacchaeus who is up in a tree - because he was short, but probably also because he's a tax collector and was nervous about being caught in a zealous crowd. Jesus transforms him by inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner. Near Jerusalem, Jesus tells a parable of a rejected king and servants who use the gifts given them faithfully. In Jerusalem, Jesus weeps over the city, foreseeing the destruction that is coming, "because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." Entering the temple, Jesus drives out the old way of doing business and begins his ministry. He silences the Sadducees, over their doubt about resurrection from the dead.

Next Sunday is the **Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time** and **The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King**. Jesus tells the marvelous parable about how we will all be judged - as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, based upon our care for the poor: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Daily Prayer This Week

We can easily spend this week asking for the grace to use the gifts we've been given. We want to recognize that we have gifts, and that they are, in fact, gifts. We didn't "earn" them; we were entrusted with them. We can reflect upon the potential each gift has and how we might develop and use each gift we have more completely - in loving, in making a difference on behalf of the poor in our world.

Each morning this week, as soon as our feet hit the floor, and while we are washing up and getting dressed, we can have our own version of the following brief conversations with our Lord. These simple prayers can shape our desiring throughout the day, as these longings in our heart grow deeper and interact with the events, encounters and opportunities in our lives.

"Dear Lord, throughout this day, help me count the ways you love me." "Lord, thank you for being so generous to me. I forget the gifts you have given me. Be with me today, so that I might be grateful and use my gifts well." "Loving Father, today I'm grateful for my parents, for the opportunities I've had up to this day, and for the special privilege this day brings to serve my family and to try to make a difference in this world. Be with me and keep me hopeful and patient, generous and free today." "Dear Jesus, I spend too much time in a tree, above the conflicts, keeping myself pretty safe. Give me the courage of your presence with me today, so that I might take more risks in loving. There are going to be some hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and imprisoned people crossing my path today. Guide me in loving better. The cry of the poor in our world seems so overwhelming. Help me listen better and imagine what I might do to make a difference, with your help."

Each night, with these prayers in our hearts all day, we can easily give thanks for the experience we were given of intimacy with our God in the midst of our busy days.

[Send us an e-mail](#)