

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27,  
34-38

## Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 6, 2022



### REFLECTION

The interaction between the Sadducees and Jesus in this week's Gospel reads like something that would happen on social media today. The Sadducees pretend to respect Jesus, addressing him as "teacher," but their real purpose is to trip him up and embarrass him with a trick question. They've already come to their own conclusions and aren't interested in genuine dialogue.

What do we do when we encounter this attitude? It can be intensely frustrating to have a conversation on important things turned into a kind of competition, and it is all too common. The temptation is to respond the same way, leaving us hunting for devastating comebacks until the conversation devolves entirely into one attempted smackdown after another.

Jesus doesn't fall into this trap. Instead of attacking the Sadducees' belief in the Law of Moses, he shows them how belief in the resurrection is compatible with the Law. How can we use our faith to help guide our response to people?

### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Have you ever had an encounter with someone who seemed only interested in using whatever you said to "score points" against you? How did you respond?
- ❖ Who do you want to remember in a special way this November as we pray for the dead?



### ACTION

The living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is also the living God of all of the Christians who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection. During the month of November, we pray in a special way for the dead, asking for the intercession of the saints in heaven and praying for the souls in purgatory. You can participate in the traditions associated with the feast of All Souls by visiting a cemetery on November 2. Ask God to bring all souls to himself, and don't forget to ask the dead to pray for you, too! Just like we can ask our friends on earth to pray for us, we can ask the saints for their prayers as well since we believe they are living in heaven with God.

**"He who carries God in his heart bears heaven with him wherever he goes."**

—St. Ignatius of Loyola





November 6, 2022

# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #156C

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

Jesus speaks with some Sadducees, a Jewish religious sect of the time. They held the view that there is no resurrection of the dead and heaven does not exist. The Sadducees argue that the teaching of Moses shows that there is no resurrection. Jesus, also drawing from Moses, shows that there is a resurrection. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God of the living, those alive to God in the present moment. Jesus shows that while humans are limited to the experience of this life, God is beyond even death. Jesus ushers us into new understandings of this life and the next, where we join with God forever.

**Q FOCUS:** *God is God of the living, not the dead. To believe in God is to live in God.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

During this month of November, the Church remembers all the faithful departed and those in purgatory by offering special prayers of remembrance. While the focal point of these prayers is on All Souls' Day, it is more than appropriate to hold special prayers services during the entire month. Consider including prayers for those who have died each time your group gathers this month. On November 9, the Church celebrates the feast of the dedication of the basilica of St. John Lateran. This is the cathedral for the bishop of Rome, who is also the pope. It is an

important feast because this church represents the "parish" of all Catholics.

### Church Teaching Connection

"We are on a journey, on a pilgrimage toward the fullness of life, and that fullness of life is what illumines our journey! Therefore death stands behind us, not before us. Before us is the God of the living, the God of the covenant, the God who bears my name, our names stand before us, as he said: 'I am the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob,' and also the God with my name, with your name . . . , with our names. The God of the living!" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, November 10, 2013).

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 20:27-38

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward and put this question to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, *If someone's brother dies leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother.* Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman but died childless. Then the second and the third married her, and likewise all the seven died

childless. Finally the woman also died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her." Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise. That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

A joke is often made in Christian circles that Catholics don't know their Bible passages.

► **How well do you know your Bible? Do you think this is true? What implication is being made here?**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gets into a debate with the Sadducees. They were a group of religious and political elites, around during Jesus' time, and they did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They used the words of Scripture to show Jesus that there is no resurrection, it is just a theory. (If you have a Bible available, read aloud Deuteronomy 25:5-10, the passage the Sadducees reference.) Jesus, knowing Scripture himself, answered the Sadducees with a passage of his own, one from Exodus, that shows the truth of the resurrection of the dead. (If you have a Bible available, read aloud Exodus 3:1-6; God's relationship with Moses' ancestors is reiterated in Exodus 3:15-16.)

Satan also quoted Scripture to Jesus during the temptations of Jesus in the desert (see Luke 4:1-13). Just because a person has knowledge of Scripture does not make them holy. Satan has shown us that. Nor does being able to quote Scripture necessarily mean you are correct. Today the Sadducees show us this truth. Knowledge of Scripture, linked with a relationship with Jesus and trust in the Church's teaching and preaching leads us to the truth.

► **What do you imagine heaven is like?**

► **Whom would you be surprised to see in heaven? Why?**

The truth is that we do not understand what heaven is truly like. Jesus reveals to us that heaven is more than we can imagine. Worrying about who is married to whom in heaven, like the Sadducees argue, misses the point. Rather, the main takeaway is that Jesus shows us that heaven is possible. His whole life was geared toward revealing heaven.

► **What events from Jesus' life do you think reveals the characteristics of heaven?**

Jesus reveals that God is the God of the living. Those who have died in God, are still with God, alive. They are with God in the present tense. We also can be with God in the present tense, right now. We do not have to die to experience a taste of heaven. We can experience it today.

► **What are some of the ways you can experience a taste of heaven in your own life, today?**

Love what God loves. Serve as God does. Pray as Jesus prays. Come to know God through his Word, through Scripture. Then we will know for ourselves the God of the living, the God who knows our names.

We should not let that joke continue, that Catholics don't know their Bible. Reading the Bible and living its message is one of the best ways to know Christ. The Church uses Scripture in so many ways and draws teachings from it and from the tradition. One of the easiest ways to start a daily habit of reading Scripture is to read the daily readings. The Church not only gives us readings to have on Sunday, but every single day of the year. And it is not the same year after year, so don't think that all you have to do is stick with it for a year! You can go to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops'

website ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) to find the daily readings and even have them emailed to you.

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 58.

**We are on a journey of faith, and death is not the end, but a beginning.**

**The Sadducees try to prove that there is no resurrection of the dead, but Jesus proves there is.**

**Knowing Scripture and faithfully following the Church’s teachings will keep us in the truth.**

## Act on the Word

### Bible Verse Hunt

For this activity, you will need Bibles for each participant.

This activity will help the young people become more comfortable using their Bibles. Give each person a Bible. Go through the Bible and show its basic parts. It is likely some in your group are unfamiliar with the Bible or how to find passages. The following could be included in this introduction:

- \* table of contents
- \* list of abbreviations
- \* introductions of books
- \* Old Testament–New Testament division

Introduce or review how to find a particular verse:

- \* book chapter: verse (for example, John 3:16)
- \* note how the small numbers within the Scripture text denote the verse number

Ask if anyone has a favorite Bible passage. Practice flipping through the pages to find it. Read them out loud. If there are no volunteers, give a few of your own.

Then, break the group into teams and announce that there will be a Bible verse hunt. You will announce the Bible verse and the first team to find it, stand up, and read the correct passage gets a point. A person can only read a passage once. Once they have read, another teammate must read the

next time. Remind the participants to be careful not to rip the pages of the Bible, but treat the Bibles with reverence and respect.

You can select any passages for your competition, but here are a few suggestions that reveal the nature of God:

- \* Genesis 1:1
- \* Exodus 3:13–14
- \* Deuteronomy 5:6
- \* 1 Kings 8:27
- \* Psalm 23:1
- \* Isaiah 45:18
- \* Jeremiah 10:10
- \* Jeremiah 31:3
- \* Matthew 28:19
- \* Romans 8:15–16
- \* 2 Corinthians 3:17
- \* 1 John 4:16
- \* Revelation 21:5

Give prizes to the winners. Remind the participants that it isn’t about how fast you find the passages, but about how you live the Word of God.

## Closing Prayer

*Ever-living God,  
your loving covenant with us has not end.  
Renew our belief in eternal life and the  
new creation in which we already live.  
May all we say and do bear witness  
to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.lwgr.org](http://www.lwgr.org). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.