

Year B

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

The last shall be first

### INTRODUCTION

Often we call people great when they are very successful, or rich and powerful. Jesus explains that such things are not important to God. He measures our greatness by our goodness and willingness to think of others before ourselves.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say together:

May the light of God's love shine in our lives today and always.

### SORRY

We ask Jesus to forgive our mistakes as we pray together:

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
*have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
*have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
*grant us peace.*

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

### GOSPEL (MARK 9:33-35)

After walking all day, Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum. When Jesus asked the disciples what they had been talking about on the way, no one looked at Jesus or answered his question, because they had been arguing about which one of them was the most important.

Jesus told the disciples to sit down and then he said, "Anyone who wants to be the greatest must become the servant of all and make himself the least important."

### DISCUSSION

What were the disciples arguing about as they walked along? Jesus had told them that he would be leaving them soon, and they were arguing about which one of them was the greatest and should take charge when he had gone.

If you said that someone was great at something, what would you mean? Someone who is great at football might score lots of touchdowns, make brilliant tackles, and be the best player on the team.

But how did Jesus describe a truly great person? He or she is not the one who draws attention to themselves or stands out in a crowd. They put the needs of others before their own, and stay quietly in the background without drawing attention to their goodness. They think of themselves last, and for this reason they will come first in the kingdom of God.

God is not impressed by our power or wealth or riches. What is really important to God is our goodness. How should we live, if we want to be great in a way which really matters to God? By learning to put ourselves last and other people first.

Instead of being bossy and taking charge in the playground, stand back sometimes and let someone else have a turn. When you want to watch something on the television but your brother or sister doesn't, then let them watch the program they choose. To put others first is not always easy, but with God's help we will succeed.

### ACTIVITY

Hand out the coloring picture to the children that shows how the last will come first.

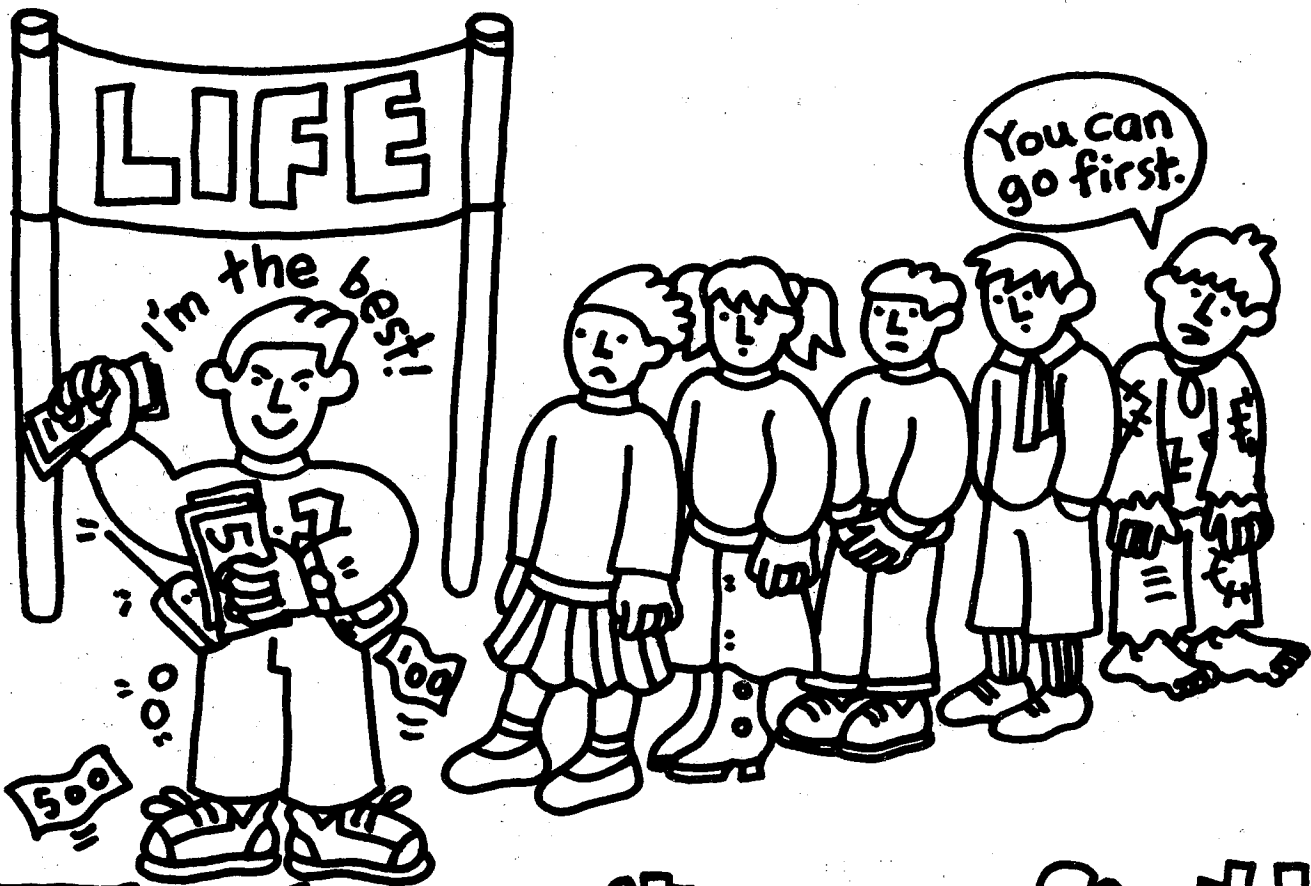
### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, sometimes I find it hard  
not to have things my own way...

To be expected to share  
and to put others first.

Help me to be generous and thoughtful  
as you would want me to.



The last will come first!

