

A hand is shown reaching upwards, palm facing up, towards a glowing cross. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise, with the sun partially obscured by the cross. The entire scene is framed with a torn-paper effect.

October

17 2021

Twenty-Ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Whoever wishes
to be great among you
will be your servant;
whoever wishes to be
first among you will be
the slave of all.

Mark 10:43-44

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THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

All three readings today support—each in its own way, of course—a reflection on the humanity of Jesus Christ and how that humanity played a key role in the drama of our salvation. Although not chosen specifically to coordinate with the other two readings, today’s second reading does in fact carry forward the theme of Christ’s humanity in a remarkable way. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews highlights the solidarity that exists between Jesus and us, precisely because in his human nature Jesus has known the same sufferings and testing that are our own experience. Because he can “sympathize with our weaknesses,” we can “approach the throne of grace to receive mercy.” For the author of Hebrews, the humanity of Jesus was an essential requirement for his redemptive death, as well as an invitation to us to find in Jesus someone with whom we can identify in our daily struggles.

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