

13th Sunday Ordinary Time

Today's readings see God as an involved partner in the demanding work of believing. The believer is not a community reject, but one who accepts a difficult invitation. In the face of conflicting values, faith is the only path.

In the first reading, death is not merely the end of bodily functions; it is loss of intimacy with God and God's party line. God's party line perpetuates the divine gift of imperishable life.

The Psalm is a thanksgiving for relief from suffering and distress. The author's Cry for help results in divine liberation. Verses 7 & 8 are omitted. It tells of a rejection of God, and acceptance of the world view of personal security which made God dispensable. Through his suffering and distress, he has regained his relationship with God. He now believes that faith is the only party line.

In the Gospel Jairus shows the audience that a synagogue official believes in Jesus' power. When he hears of his daughter's death, he's challenged to believe on an even higher level: that Jesus can raise the dead. Jesus prepares him; "Do not fear, Only believe."

The story urges the Marken community that faith in Jesus can conquer death despite the crowd's opposition. Faith is the only party line.