Trinity 20

Today's Gospel reading: Mark 10. 35-45

If you are with us in the cathedral or church, please stand for the Gospel reading and join the responses before and after the reading. If you are watching our service online, you might like to do the same.

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to St Mark Glory to you, O Lord

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A very important lesson today! This story asks us to explore what it means to be a leader.

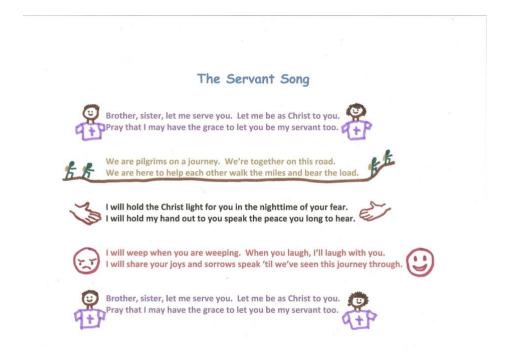
What qualities do you think make a good leader?

We might want to be team captain in sports, or head boy or girl, or a leader in scouts, guides or brownies. Leadership is regarded by many people as desirable and something to aspire to. It brings honour, titles and special privileges. If you are a leader you can be "in charge" and tell other people what to do!

Do you think Jesus shares this view of leadership?

No - Jesus has a different definition! Jesus agrees that it is good to be a leader but says that a leader is a person who puts the needs and wants of others before his or her own. It is much harder to be this type of leader, but this is the kind of leadership Jesus himself modelled when he washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper – a job that servants usually did. Christian leadership should be servant leadership.

Read carefully through the words of this hymn, sometimes called the "Servant Song":



How do you think we can be "as Christ" to one another?

Remember that Jesus knows everything about us and still loves us. He forgives us when we mess up. It can be difficult, but this is what we should try and do for one another. We are here to help one another, especially when times are difficult. We help others, and, when we are struggling, it is good to allow others to help us too!

A prayer for this week:

Loving God, your Son showed us how to truly be leaders. Help us to understand what it means to lead by serving others and putting their needs before our own. Amen.

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To Be Like Jesus

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



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