



First Reading: (*Wis 2:12, 17-20*) The godless say to themselves, "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's son, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

Ps 53:3-6, 8

R./ The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading: (*Jas 3:16 - 4:3*) Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of

righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 4:1 What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Gospel: (*Mk 9:30-37*) Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him. And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve;



**WHOEVER RECEIVES
ONE CHILD SUCH AS THIS
IN MY NAME, RECEIVES ME;**

and he said to them, "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his

arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

REFLECTION

We can serve God in a variety of ways – prayer, submission to his will, proclaiming his word, above all, loving and serving him in our brothers and sisters. The last is the most meritorious. The more intensely you feel God's presence, the happier you are, and you will find meaning in your life; you will then think, speak and live differently. That demands daily practice. You can explain the colour of a flower to a blind man; he may understand you, but he will never have the experience of it. Experience of the presence of God is the secret of happiness, peace and inner healing. Your personality is defined by your ability to rise when you fall. Jesus came to lift up the downtrodden. **Open the eyes of our faith, open the doors of our hearts, God will let his power flow into us. He will speak to us and revive our drooping spirit.**