

# Formed in Prayer

Let us be still  
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.  
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.  
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.  
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire  
and sustain us in our mission.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Gospel

Luke 19: 1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?  
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

## Reflection

In music, an *ostinato* is a motif or phrase that persistently repeats. Well-known ostinato-based pieces include Ravel's *Boléro*. In Luke's Gospel parables and narratives, we find a constant literary and theological refrain; namely that in and through Jesus ministry, God's merciful and healing love reaches out to those regarded as the 'lost' and the 'least'. It is a love that is scandalous in its generous hospitality, restoring lost dignity and drawing those marginalised into a renewed sense of community with a privileged place at God's table.

Who are those like Zacchaeus amongst our colleagues, those we teach and serve who need someone to "stay at their place". Who are those who need me to notice them, to sit with them, to befriend them, to work more closely with them, to bring them back in from the cold? Who needs me to risk the complaints of others in reaching out to help restore their sense of dignity and self confidence, to lead them not just to any place but a privileged place at the table that is our communal life and mission? *(Greg Wilson CSYMA Manager)*

## Prayer

Jesus,  
Help us to seek out and save 'the lost',  
those most in need of your merciful love in and through our friendship.  
Help us to see those 'short' of self esteem and confidence  
hidden from us in their shyness, learned silence and distraction  
Help us to see You in them.  
Amen.