

**Sunday: 20 June 2010**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Reading 1: Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1

Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Reading 2: Galatians 3:26-29

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 9:18-24

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**Scripture:** *Luke 9:18-24*

<sup>18</sup>Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" <sup>19</sup>They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Messiah of God." <sup>21</sup>He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup>He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." <sup>23</sup>Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

**Meditation:** Who is Jesus for you? Many in Israel recognized Jesus as a mighty man of God, even comparing him with the greatest of the prophets. Peter, always quick to respond whenever Jesus spoke, professed that Jesus was truly the *Christ of God*. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter, but only God. Through the *eyes of faith* Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to publicly recognize Jesus as the *Anointed One* whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world as Lord and Saviour (Luke 2:11, Acts 2:36). *Christ* is the Greek word for *Messiah*, the Hebrew word which is also translated as the *Anointed One*.

Jesus told his disciples that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and die in order that God's work of redemption might be accomplished. How startled the disciples were when they heard this word. How different are God's thoughts and ways from our thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8). Through humiliation, suffering, and death on the cross Jesus broke the powers of sin and death and won for us eternal life and freedom from the slavery of sin and from the oppression of our enemy, Satan, the father of lies and the deceiver of humankind.

If we want to share in Christ's victory, then we must also take up our cross and follow him where he leads us. What is the "cross" that you and I must take up each day? When my will clashes with God's will, then his will must be done. To know Jesus Christ is to know the power of his victory on the cross where he defeated sin and conquered death through his resurrection. Who do you say that Jesus is?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

1. What are the daily crosses you have to bear or carry? Do you grumble against God or others around you for your crosses or do you carry your crosses as a opportunity to grow in your relationship with our Father?
2. How does your faith help you lighten the crosses you bear?
3. Who is Jesus for you?

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"Lord Jesus, I believe and I profess that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Take my life, my will, and all that I have, that I may be wholly yours now and forever."