

23th Sunday of the OT  
September 6'26 – Cycle A



**Two or three are enough**  
... THE PLACE WHERE HE DWELLS

Where two or three of us gather in his name, there is Jesus, in the middle, not on the sidelines. It is not necessary to be a multitude for God to be present, a true "we" is enough.

The Word today invites us to take care of the bonds that sustain us and to heal those that hurt us. Correct with affection, forgive unconditionally, listen before judging, this is how community is built.

May this week, a call, a gesture of forgiveness, an outstretched hand, be a place where He dwells. Because loving the other is what matters, and in every sincere encounter, God becomes present.

May this Eucharist send us to weave community, wherever we live, wherever we love.

## **SONG. MEETING – SAN JOSÉ CHOIR**

<https://youtu.be/g2rWUY2ethA?si=0FGbPbWBYRvoC1rq>

## **GOSPEL – MATTHEW 18:15-20**

"If your brother sins, go and rebuke him, alone with him. If he listens to you, you will have won your brother. If he does not listen to you, take one or two with you, so that every matter may be settled by the word of two or three witnesses. If he does not listen to them, tell it to the community. And if even the community does not listen, let him be to you as the Gentile and the tax collector. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Truly I say to you, if two of you agree on earth to ask for anything, whatever it may be, you will get it from my Father who is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

## **To deepen the Word**

**Ez 33:7-9.** Reading Ezekiel we realize that this prophet often had the impression of preaching in the desert. In those moments of discouragement, the prophet remembers his mission as a "watchman" so it was necessary to continue without being discouraged, since the watchman has no right to fail in his mission.

**Psalm 94:1-9.** As for today's Psalm, let us note that it speaks in the plural: "Will you listen to his word today?... It may be that we are touching on one of the problems of the Church today: in the Bible, it is a people who come to meet their God... but how can we live concretely as Christians in a world that is not?"

**Rom 13:8-10.** Saint Paul, in today's second reading, told us: "Do not owe anyone anything but the debt of mutual love... the perfect fulfillment of the Law is love."

**Mt 18:15-20.** Matthew chapter 18, from which we read verses 15-20 today, explains from different angles the fulfilment of this love within the Christian community and addresses in particular two themes: the priority given to the little ones and the poor and mutual forgiveness. Just before this passage, Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep. And this will henceforth be the watchword that Jesus entrusts to his disciples: "Do not let your brothers and sisters be lost". This duty of vigilance concerns first of all those responsible for the community, **the shepherds. But the duty of mutual vigilance also exists within the flock: the sheep are responsible for one another.**

Regarding the theme of the relationship between Christians, which we contemplate today, when one goes astray, Jesus indicates the way to follow: first seek dialogue before talking about the problem with others, which will undoubtedly avoid aggravating the wounds of the sheep. And do everything possible to bring it back into the fold.

## **I pray with the Word**

In the text, Jesus invites us to be attentive to our brothers and sisters, to those around us. How do I live this relationship within the community, in the family...? How do I live fraternal correction? How do I become aware of the presence of Jesus in the encounter with my brothers and sisters?



**PEDER B. HELLAND - EARTH IN THE SKY**

<https://youtu.be/Sm7wwF9OX0g?si=Jsqflnwmcl1mskvk>

## COUNT ME IN

You don't need noise, or a  
big sign, or crowds, just two  
or three.

I look for You in the street,  
among the people, and You  
tell me, "Look next to you."

When it hurts,  
I don't scream on the net,  
I look for your face,  
I talk to you without  
winning.

To forgive is not to be  
weak, it is to be brave to  
untie knots, to start again.

I give a call, a "how are  
you?", a coffee with you,  
a silence that heals.

I don't want reason,  
I want you close; I prefer  
the bond to winning.

Two hands that come  
together  
we are already a people,  
there is no need for a  
temple, it is enough to stay.

If there are two or three of  
us, I am no longer alone.  
In the middle of the  
encounter You say, here I  
am.

## SONG.

### GOD IS NOT IN THE SKY. LOOK INSIDE YOU-RUMI

<https://youtu.be/3wtS48eSji4?si=Pv7hbkCVsUzENmK->



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