



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43

Welcome to the baseball playoffs. They kicked off this week. It is an exciting time if you have a team in it, but a good watch even if you just love baseball. The tension is always there because a key pitch, a defensive play or a special clutch hit can change the game's outcome.

The Brewers have had a fantastic year and maybe it will be their year. Do you know when was the last time Milwaukee won the World Series? 1957. I was five years old. It was the Milwaukee Braves. Players like Warren Spahn, Lou Burdette, Eddie Matthews, Del Crandall and my favorite baseball player, Hank Aaron were part of the team.

When Hank Aaron was asked about how he went about being successful as a batter he said, "My motto was always keep swinging whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing was keep swinging." He advises us to just keep trying.

St. Paul realizes that life is not always easy, but he tells us to keep swinging by telling us:

*Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4: 8-9)*

St. Paul invites to live a consistent life with the Lord no matter how things are going. You just keep swinging.

I would think one of the things that showed St. Paul's faith would be a sense of humor. Not a lot of humor in his letters but with all the tough times he went through he had to have a lightness in his heart to keep going as he shared the gospel.

Hank Aaron had a good sense of humor. In many of the interviews you see with him, he can laugh with the best of them. With all the racial tensions he had to go through in his life he kept the perspective of life, and he kept on doing what he learned and received and heard and saw in his parents. Hank had a great smile.

One funny quote from him is: "It took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course."

So, enjoy the baseball playoffs. And keep swinging as a disciple of the Lord. You may even get a clutch hit.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame