

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

LAST AFTER TRINITY (YEAR A) PROPER 25

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Lev 19.1-2,15-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 'Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

'You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 1



R. Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord. *(All repeat)*



Happy indeed [|] is the man who follows not the counsel [|] of the wicked, nor lingers in the [|] way of sinners, nor sits in the company [|] of the scornful. *R.*

His delight is in the law [|] of the Lord, and he meditates on his law [|] day and night. He is like a tree planted beside [|] flowing waters, that yields its fruit [|] in due season. *R.*

It is not so [|] with the wicked: they are like chaff which the wind [|] blows away.

For the Lord guards the way [|] of the righteous, but the way of the wicked [|] leads to doom. *R.*

SECOND READING

1 The 2.1-8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that

we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf Acts 16.14

Alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord:
to receive the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mt 22.34-46

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no-one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look favourably, Lord, upon the gifts we make to you, so that our poor human worship may serve to give you glory; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**