

September 20th



25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Father, guide us, as you guide creation according to your law of love. May we love one another and come to perfection in the eternal life prepared for us. Grant this...

FIRST READING

(The Book of Wisdom describes the 'ungodly' as planning to torture some righteous, just man, because he has condemned their mode of living. These 'ungodly', as appears from the context, were the perverted Jews.)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (2:12,17-20)

The godless say to themselves, "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions: he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's son, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.

Let us test him with insult and torture, that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (53)

Response: The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth. R./

For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God. R./

But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. R./

SECOND READING

(St James has some eminently practical points in today's passage for Christians of all races and

ages. He pinpoints the cause of all wars and fightings, whether they be family feuds, village quarrels, or global confrontations. It is the sinful coveteousness.)

A reading from the Letter of St James (3:16-4:3)

Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Lk 19:38)

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(Today's gospel passage gives us Christ's second prediction of his passion, death and resurrection. It also shows how worldly and earthly-minded his disciples still were.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (9:30-37)

Jesus and his disciples went on from the mountain and passed through Galilee. And he would not have anyone know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him.

And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord