



26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Father, you show your almighty power in your mercy and forgiveness. Continue to fill us with your gifts of love. Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise and come to share in the joys of your kingdom. Grant this...

FIRST READING

(As an answer to Moses' doubt the Lord selects seventy elders and bestows them with the spirit, thereby empowering them to prophesy.)

A reading from the Book of Numbers (11:25-29)

The Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses, and took some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did so no more.

Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested upon them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, forbid them." But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!"

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (18)

Response: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. R./

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. R./

So in them your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. R./

From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. R./

SECOND READING

(St James makes it clear that the oppression of the workers and the weak reach the ears of God. The rich who refuse to share their wealth will be condemned to miseries.)

A reading from the Letter of St James (5:1-6)

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have killed the righteous man; he does not resist you.

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Jn 8:12)

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(Jesus makes it clear that even the little ones are precious to God and those who cause them to sin will have their punishment in hell.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (9:38-43; 47-48)

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."

This is the Gospel of the Lord