

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2nd November, 2008

First Reading

Mal. 1:14b-2:9

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

“I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is revered among the nations.

And now, O priests, this command is for you. If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse on you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and I will put you out of my presence.

Know, then, that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may hold, says the Lord of hosts. My covenant with him was a covenant of life and well-being, which I gave him; this called for reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in integrity and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 131

Response: *In you, Lord, I have found my peace.*

O Lord my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

R.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

R.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

R.

Second Reading

1 Thess. 2:7-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

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. You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mtt. 23:1-12

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

✠ **Glorify to you Lord Christ.**

They do not practise what they preach.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father — the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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