

# THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th October 2009

## First Reading

### A reading from the book of Genesis

*They were two in one flesh.*

Gen. 2:18-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm.

Response: *May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

Ps. 127(128)

O blessed are you who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
by the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

R.

The wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of the house;  
children like shoots of the olive,  
around the table.

R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
those who fear the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace!

R.

## Second Reading

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*The one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have one origin.*

Heb. 2:1-10

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we

neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honour,  
subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk. 10:2-16

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*What God has joined together, people must not divide.*

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"

They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.