

## THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

28th September 2008

### First Reading

Ezek. 18:26-32

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel**

*When the sinner decides to turn against his sinfulness, he deserves to live.*

When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 25

**Response:** *Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

### Second Reading

Phil. 2:1-11

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians**

*In your minds be as Christ Jesus.*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing

in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!** My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mtt. 21:28-32

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew  
℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

For the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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