

THE 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

26th October 2008

First Reading

Exod. 22:21-27

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

Thus says the Lord: “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans.

“If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them. If you take your neighbour’s cloak in pawn, you shall restore it before the sun goes down; for it may be your neighbour’s only clothing to use as cover; in what else shall that person sleep? And if your neighbour cries out to me, I will listen, for I am compassionate.”

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 18

Response: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

R.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God, who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

R.

Second Reading

1 Thess. 1:5b-10

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mtt. 22:34-40

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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