

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 6, 2022

Dear Girls and Boys,

This Sunday is the thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we are now only a few Sundays away from the beginning of Advent, a new chapter in the church calendar. In today's readings, you will learn something about martyrs and their very strong faith in God and how our faith keeps us safe during our life.

In the first reading (**2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9, 12, 14**) we hear about a family of Jewish brothers and their mother, who was so strong in their belief, that they would rather die—give up their lives—than disobey the laws of God. The Maccabees were a group of Jewish people who lived in the second century before Christ. Their enemies wanted to do away with the Jewish culture. For example, they insisted that Jews eat pork which was against their religious laws. You will read about the terrible treatment that they endured from their enemies because they stuck to the rules of their beliefs.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees:

King Antiochus arrested seven Jewish brothers and their mother. He had them beaten with heavy whips and tried to make them eat the meat of pigs, which was against their religion. But one of them spoke up and said, "Why are you torturing us like this? We will die before we disobey the laws of our ancestors!"

When the second brother was almost dead, he said to the king, "You're cruel! You can kill us, but the King of this world will raise us back to life. And then we will live forever, because we died, rather than disobey his laws."

[The king tortured and killed all seven brothers and their mother in this way. And] the king and his troops were amazed at the young [men's] courage. Here [were brothers] willing to suffer.

But just before [one of] the last brother[s] died, he said, "We are willing for you to kill us, because God has promised to raise us to life. But you have no hope of being raised to life."

The word of the Lord.

The brothers became martyrs, people who are tortured and endured cruelties to themselves for the sake of sticking to their religious beliefs. It is truly amazing how strong this family was in believing their God's promise. We, in today's age, do not have to worry about physically suffering for our religion. But some of us are being made fun of, because we believe in our God. Our faith will be rewarded when we are raised to life after death.

Next is the responsorial Psalm (**Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8 and 15**) in which we ask the Lord to hear our prayer; we ask Him for help, and we follow Him so that we can be strong and then our joy will be complete.

R/: Lord, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.

*R/: Lord, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

I am innocent, LORD! Won't you listen as I pray and beg for help? I am honest! Please hear my prayer.

*R/: Lord, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

I have followed You without ever stumbling. I pray to you, God, because You will help me. Listen and answer my prayer!

*R/: Lord, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

Protect me as You would Your very own eyes; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. I am innocent, LORD, and I will see Your face! When I awake, all I want is to see as You are.

*R/: Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

In the Psalm you will notice how we put our faith in the Lord, we tell Him to help us as we pray so that we can feel secure in the Lord's wings because we will be joyful when we are with Him and see Him.

The second reading (**2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5**) is a letter from St. Paul to the Thessalonians in the New Testament. Although Paul was not one of the original ten Apostles, he has made a large contribution telling us about the Life of Jesus. St. Paul had founded a group of people in the church of Thessalonica in Greece. In spite of harassment against them for believing in Jesus, they were strong followers of the new faith. St. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to spread the news. He tells them about the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ and how He will keep them from evil people as long as they always do the right thing.

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians:

Brothers and sisters: God our Father loves us. He is kind and has given us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope. We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father will encourage you and will help you always to do and say the right thing.

Finally, our friends, please pray for us. This will help the message about the Lord to spread quickly, and others will respect it, just as you do. Pray that we may be kept safe from worthless and evil people. After all, not everyone has faith.

But the Lord can be trusted to make you strong and to protect you from harm. He has made us sure that you are obeying what we taught you and that you will keep on obeying. I pray that the

Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Our gospel today is from Luke. He reports about the Sadducees, who were a group of Jewish people who were formed just before Jesus was born and were active for about one hundred years after Christ. Luke talks about the fact that they did not believe in life after death. They wanted to test Jesus by asking Him about a case of a married man and his brothers who lived according to the rules of their Jewish faith. Read what the situation was and what Jesus had to say to them.

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Luke:

The Sadducees did not believe that people would rise to life after death. So some of them came to Jesus and said: "Teacher, Moses wrote that if a married man dies and has no children, his brother should marry the widow. Their first son would then be thought of as the son of the dead brother.

"There were once seven brothers. The first one married but died without having any children. The second one married his brother's widow, and he also died without having any children. The same thing happened to the third one.

Finally, all seven brothers married that woman and died without having any children. At last the woman died.

"When God raises people from death, whose wife will this woman be? All seven brothers had married her."

Jesus answered: "The people in this world get married. But in the future world no one who is worthy to rise from death will

either marry or die. They will be like the angels and will be God's children, because they have been raised to life.

“In the story about the burning bush, Moses clearly shows that people will live again. He said, ‘The Lord is the God worshiped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ So the Lord is not the God of the dead, but of the living. This means that anyone is alive as far as God is concerned.”

The gospel of the Lord.

This is a long story to show how the Sadducees wanted to test Jesus. Luke reports to us what Jesus told those who did not believe in a life after death. Did you catch the answer to that inquiry? Jesus made it clear that when you believe in life after death, there is no married or dead status, but all will be like angels, and all are God's children.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2022  
Barbara Oberding

Can you answer these questions from this Sunday's readings?

1. In the first reading why were the seven brothers tortured to death?
2. What do we learn from the Psalm when we pray?
3. Who were the Thessalonians to whom St. Paul wrote?
4. How does the gospel's story relate to the first reading?
5. What is our job in order to be raised to life after death?