

Sunday Readings

20th October 2024

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 53:10-11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with
suffering.
If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over,
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R/. v.22

***R/. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place
all our hope in you.***

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R/.**
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R/.**
Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme
high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven,
we must never let go of the faith that we have professed.
For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable
of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who
has been tempted in every way that we are, though he
is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching
the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him
and find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 10:35-45

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached
Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us
a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to
do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your
right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You
do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them.
'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised
with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They
replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I
must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with
which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as
for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine
to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been
allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel
indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them
to him and said to them, 'You know that among the
pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their
great men make their authority felt. This is not to
happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become
great among you must be your servant, and anyone who
wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For
the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but
to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Amen.

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year B

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

“Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptised with my baptism of suffering.”

James and John come to Jesus and ask to be given positions of honour in the Kingdom. They sort of half got the message - the Kingdom of God is coming. What they didn't get is that it is a kingdom like no other. The other disciples were indignant at this request by James and John, but only because they had got in first.



God's kingdom is not about seeking power but seeking to serve others. We are to follow Jesus' example in pouring out our lives to serve others.

It is a basic human drive to seek significance, a sense of worth not just to ourselves but to others. We have people who influence us and whom we seek to influence. We all want to be important to someone. Jesus says that significance comes from serving not from ruling. If I want to be a leader in God's kingdom I have to be a servant. That means that I look to the needs of the people around me as a priority in my life.

That means a complete turn around on the way the world does things. I don't need to exalt myself, I need to serve others. I don't need to blow my own trumpet as others will speak my praises when I model Christ's love to them.



Wednesday 23 October 2024

**St John of Capistrano
(1386 - 1456)**



He was born in Capistrano in the Abruzzi in 1386. He studied law at Perugia and for some time held the office of a judge. He joined the Friars Minor and was ordained. He travelled throughout Germany, Poland, Transylvania, Moldavia, and Russia, leading an apostolic life, strengthening Christian morals and combating heresy.

When the Turks were invading Europe in the wake of the fall of Constantinople, they laid siege to Belgrade, then a border fort of the kingdom of Hungary. John preached a crusade against them and took part in the battle on 22 July 1456 in which John Hunyadi, his army and John's peasant crusaders lifted the siege and defeated the Turks, keeping Christian Europe safe from Turkish invasion for the next 70 years.

Plague spread through the camp and John died of it, at Ilok, in what is now Croatia, on 23 October 1456. He is the patron saint of military chaplains.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.