

The Living Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

2 October 2022

First Reading Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The just will live by faithfulness.

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said,

'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. *(R.)*
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. *(R.)*
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *(R.)*

Second Reading 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 1:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 17:5-10

If you had faith!

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The loving gaze of a mother towards her newborn simply gives rise to the obligation to feed the baby. There is no special reward for doing her motherly duty. This is how Jesus sees 'good works'. If we perceive our relationships with people correctly, then so-called 'good works' are no more than our duty and don't deserve special congratulatory access to Heaven.

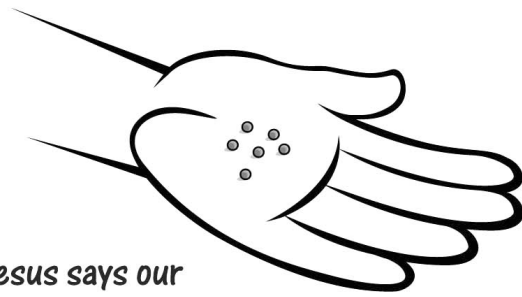
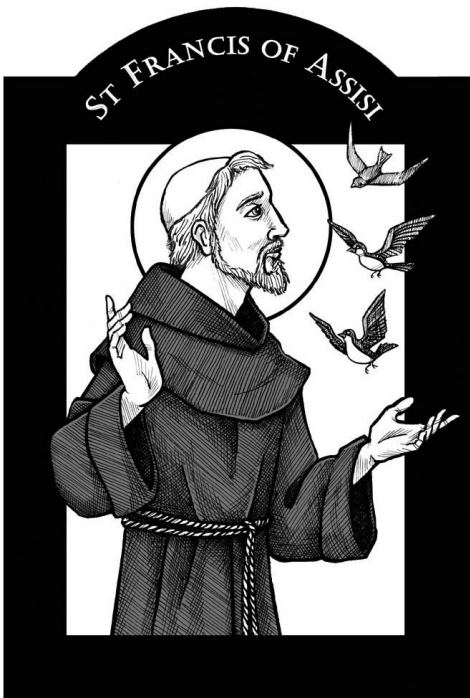
If we saw human beings as 'formed from the dust of the earth, . . . a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory' (St John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* 34.2), then that perception leads to certain ways of relating which are obliging. Like the servant in the story, we will have done no more than our duty.

Nevertheless, doing that sort of duty you and I are becoming the sort of creature who can love unreservedly. We are being readied to receive the free gift of heavenly life.

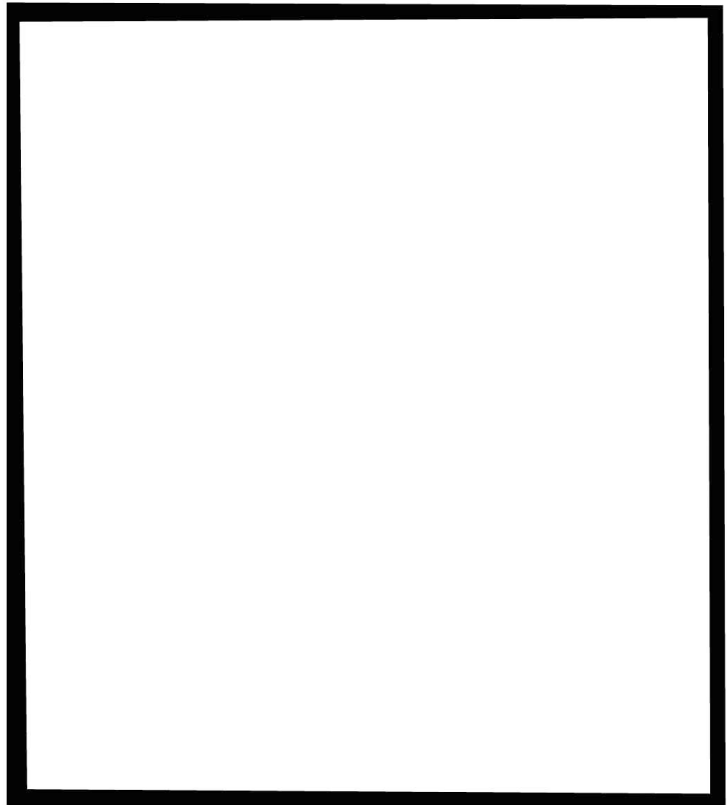
We might take a moment to pause to get our perception of human beings correct so that our response may prepare us for the free gift of heavenly life.

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Jesus says our faith can grow, like a mustard seed that grows into a tree. Draw a picture of yourself doing something that helps your faith in Jesus to grow.



St Francis of Assisi was born the son of a wealthy merchant of Assisi in 1181. After a conversion experience as a young man, St Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes, instead wearing the simple garments given to him by the bishop of Assisi. Living a life of extreme poverty, St Francis preached in the streets, begged for his sustenance, served the sick and lived in harmony with nature. After attracting followers, he founded the Franciscan order in 1209. He continued living in poverty, preaching and working with lepers. In 1221 he resigned as the head of the Franciscans. After living in meditation on Mount Alvernia he received the stigmata, which bled periodically for the remaining two years of his life. His prayer, 'Canticle of the Sun', epitomises St Francis' communion with God and the universe and makes him an obvious patron of environmental causes.

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- bigger
- duty
- faith
- meal
- mulberry
- ocean
- roots
- seed
- servants
- sheep
- tree
- welcome

D	P	D	Y	Y	L	T	O	S	U	V	Z	C	E	P
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Q	C	H	O	M	C	A	A	N	O	T	D	M	A	M
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