

# 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.

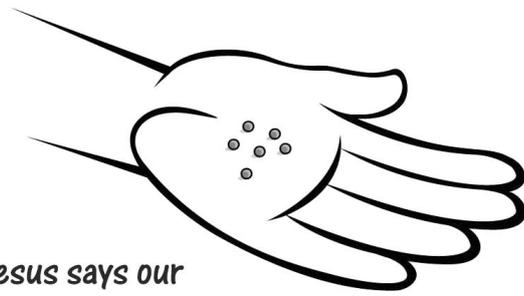
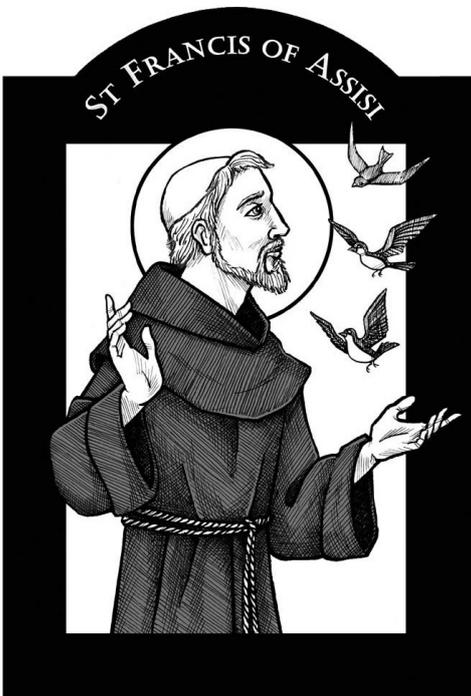
If we saw human beings as 'formed  
from the dust of the earth, . . . a  
manifestation of God in the world,  
a sign of his presence, a trace of  
his glory' (St John Paul II,  
*Evangelium Vitae* 34.2), then that  
perception leads to certain ways of  
relating which are obliging. Like the  
servant 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.

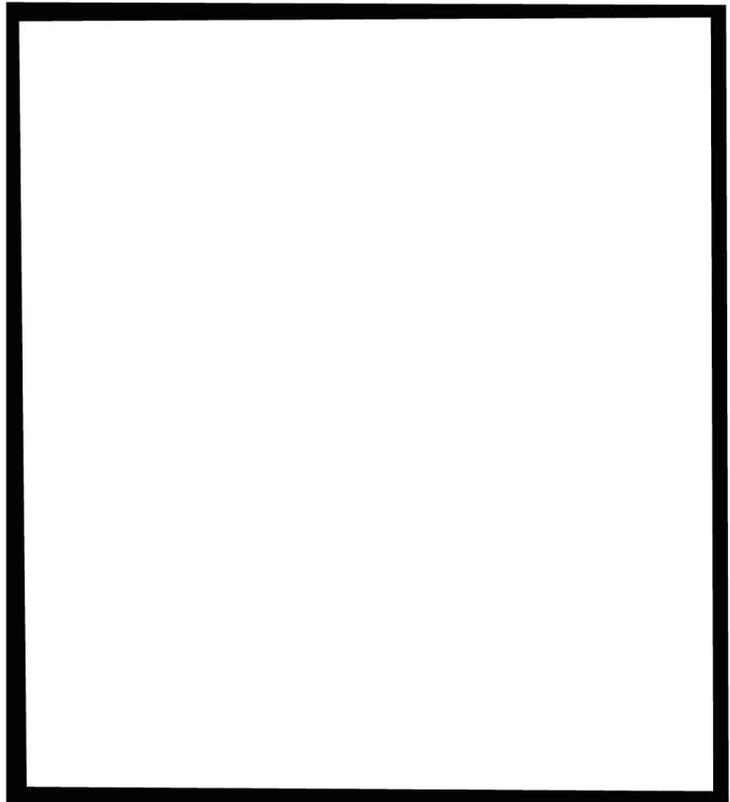
We might take a moment to pause  
to get our perception of human  
beings correct so that our response  
may prepare us for the free gift of  
heavenly life.

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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.



**S**t 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
K	I	S	Z	R	S	L	C	S	E	I	A	E	M	W
S	P	S	V	F	E	Y	E	T	G	E	R	F	H	B
Q	C	H	O	M	C	A	A	N	O	T	D	M	A	M
H	R	E	G	G	I	B	N	A	B	J	Y	Y	I	R
T	M	E	Q	X	A	M	T	V	U	R	T	X	I	T
I	K	P	V	I	Q	U	U	R	R	L	F	Q	V	W
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A	B	C	N	N	B	L	Z	F	E	W	O	L	T	D
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L	F	R	S	M	S	W	L	W	Y	C	T	P	V	T
N	P	O	G	Y	B	D	U	G	I	E	S	H	M	Y