

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY



A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing.

You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 130

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second Reading # 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.

Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good news to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 23:9.10

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Matthew 23:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said,

'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses.
You must therefore do what they tell you
and listen to what they say;
but do not be guided by what they do:
since they do not practice what they preach.

'They tie up heavy burdens
and lay them on men's shoulders,
but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they!
Everything they do is done to attract attention,
like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels,
like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets
and the front seats in the synagogues,
being greeted obsequiously in the market squares
and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers.
You must call no one on earth your father,
since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.
Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers,
for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant.
Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.