

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY



First Reading † 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

A reading from the first book of the Kings

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream during the night. God said,

‘Ask what I should give you.’

Solomon replied,

‘Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father.

But I am only a young man, I do not know how to come in and go out.

And here is your servant, surrounded by your people whom you have chosen, a people so numerous that its number cannot be counted or reckoned.

‘So, give your servant a heart to understand how to govern your people, how to discern between good and evil, for how otherwise could one govern such a great people as yours?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this, and God said to him,

‘Since you have asked for this,
and not asked for long life for yourself or riches
or the lives of your enemies but for a discerning judgement for yourself,
here and now I do what you ask.

See, I give you a heart wise to understand,
such as no one has had before and no one will have after you.

What you have not asked I shall give you too:
such riches and glory as no other king can match.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 118:57.72.76-77.127-130

Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, ‘O Lord,
my portion is to obey your words.’
The law from your mouth means more to me
than quantities of silver and gold.

Lord, I love your commands.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

Lord, I love your commands.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts
and hate false ways.

Lord, I love your commands.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading † Romans 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that for those who love God everything works together for good, for those who have been called in accordance with his purpose, because those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he should be the eldest among many brothers and sisters; those he called he also justified, and those he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel [longer form] † Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the disciples:

‘The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found;
he hid it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls;
when he found one of great value he went and sold everything he owned and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast in the sea
and bringing in a haul of all kinds of fish.
When it was full, they brought it ashore;
then, sitting down, they collected the good ones in baskets and threw away the rotten ones.

‘So it will be at the end of time: the angels will come out and separate
the wicked from the righteous, to throw them into the blazing furnace,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’

They said to him, ‘Yes.’

And he said to them,

‘Well then, every scribe instructed for the kingdom of Heaven
is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom new things as well as old.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [shorter form] † Matthew 13:44-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the disciples:

‘The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hid it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he found one of great value he went and sold everything he owned and bought it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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