

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY



First Reading † Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10

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

A reading from the prophet Malachi

‘For I am a great king, says the Lord Sabaoth, and among the nations my name is revered.

‘And now, priests, this commandment is for you.

If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to glorify my name,
says the Lord Sabaoth, I shall certainly lay a curse on you and I shall curse your blessing.

‘But you yourselves have turned aside from the Way;
you have caused many to lapse by your teaching. Since you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,
says the Lord Sabaoth,
so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile to the whole people
for not having kept my ways and for being partial in applying the Law.

‘Is there not one father of us all? Did not one God create us?

Why then do we break faith with one another by 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 tranquillity.
As a baby full fed on its mother,
as a baby full fed is my soul within me.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
both now and for ever.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second Reading † 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

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

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

Instead, we were gentle among you, like a mother nourishing her children. We are so devoted to you that we are glad to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, so dear have you become to us.

You remember, brothers and sisters, our trouble and toil; we worked night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you while we proclaimed the gospel of God to you.

Another reason why we continually thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the word that we brought you as God's message, you received it not as the word of any human being but as what it truly is, the word of God, which is also at work among you believers.

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

They do not practise what they preach.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then addressing the crowds and his disciples Jesus said,

'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses.
You must therefore do and observe everything that they tell you;
but do not do what they do, since they do not practise what they teach.

'They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders,
but they do not lift a finger to move them.

'Everything they do is done to be seen by others,
for they make their headbands broader and their tassels longer.

'They love the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues,
and greetings in the market squares and to be addressed by people as Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi,
since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers and sisters.

'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 Messiah.

'The greatest among you will be your servant.
Anyone who raises himself up will be humbled,
and anyone who humbles himself will be raised up.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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