

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

# Season of the Year B

*First Reading † Joshua 24:1-2,15-18*

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

### **A reading from the book of Joshua**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; he summoned all the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges and officials, and they presented themselves in God's presence. Joshua then said to all the people,

'The Lord, the God of Israel, says this,

'From time immemorial, your ancestors, Terah, father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River, and served other gods.

'As for me and my family, we shall serve the Lord.'

The people replied,

'Far be it from us to desert the Lord and serve other gods!

The Lord our God was the one who brought us and our ancestors up from Egypt, from the place of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and who kept us safe all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

And the Lord has driven all the nations out for us, including the Amorites who used to live in the land.

'We too shall serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 33:2-3.16-23*

### ***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
praise of him is always in my mouth.  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad.

### ***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

The Lord turns his eyes to the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

### ***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

When the righteous cry out, the Lord hears,  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

### ***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Many are the trials of the righteous,  
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.  
He will keep guard over all their bones;  
not one of their bones shall be broken.

***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the righteous are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
None who trust in him shall be condemned.

***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

***Second Reading † Ephesians 5:21-32***

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subject to their husbands as to the Lord, since a husband is head of his wife, just as Christ is head of the Church, himself the saviour of the body. But as the Church is subject to Christ, so should wives be to their husbands, in everything.

Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy by washing her in cleansing water by a word, so that he might present her to himself in splendour, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. No one has ever hated his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it, just as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his body.

*This is why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes attached to his wife, and the two become one flesh. This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.*

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation † cf John 6:63.68***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Gospel † John 6:60-69***

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

After hearing it, many of the followers of Jesus said,

‘This is hard language. How could anyone accept it?’

Knowing that his followers were murmuring about it, Jesus said to them,

‘Does this offend you?’

What if you should see the Son of man ascending to where he was before?’

‘It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh is no help.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’

For Jesus knew from the beginning who did not believe and who was to betray him. And he said,

‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me except by the gift of the Father.’

After this, many of his disciples fell back and no longer walked with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve,

‘Do you want to go away too?’

Simon Peter answered him,

‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,  
and we believe and we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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