

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY



First Reading † Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

‘And hence, if, throughout your lives, you fear the Lord your God and keep all his laws and commandments, which I am laying down for you today, you will live long, you and your child and your grandchild.

‘Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosperous and numerous, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you, in giving you a land flowing with milk and honey.

‘Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your strength.
The words that I command to you today shall stay in your heart.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 17:2-4.47.51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength;
O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour;
my God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I cry out, ‘Praised be the Lord!’
and see, I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

The Lord lives, and blest be my rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading † Hebrews 7:23-28

This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Further, while the former priests were many in number, because death stopped them from being permanent, this one, because he remains *for ever*, has a perpetual priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save those who come to God through him is absolute, since he lives for ever to intercede for them.

It was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent and uncontaminated, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens, who has no need to offer sacrifices every day, as the high priests do, first for their own sins and only then for those of the people; this he did once and for all by offering himself.

The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect *for ever*.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Mark 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One of the scribes who had heard them debating appreciated that Jesus had given them a good answer, and put a further question to him,

‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’

Jesus replied,

‘This is the first: *Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord,
and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.*

The second is this: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*
There is no commandment greater than these.’

The scribe said to him,

‘Well spoken, teacher; what you have said is true,
that *he is one and there is no other.*
*To love him with all your heart,
with all your understanding and strength,
and to love your neighbour as yourself,*
this is far more important than whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’

Jesus, seeing that he had answered wisely, said,

‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’

And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

[Week 31 \(Year I\)](#) | [Week 31 \(Year II\)](#)