

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—NOVEMBER 10, 2019

First Reading — 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 ¹It happened also that seven brothers and their mother were arrested and were being compelled by the king, under torture with whips and cords, to partake of unlawful swine's flesh. ²One of them, acting as their spokesman, said, "What do you intend to ask and learn from us? For we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our fathers." ... ⁹And when he was at his last breath, he said, "You accursed wretch, you dismiss us from this present life, but the King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws." ¹⁰ After him, the third was the victim of their sport. When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously stretched forth his hands, ¹¹and said nobly, "I got these from Heaven, and because of his laws I disdain them, and from him I hope to get them back again." ¹²As a result the king himself and those with him were astonished at the young man's spirit, for he regarded his sufferings as nothing. ¹³When he too had died, they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way. ¹⁴And when he was near death, he said, "One cannot but choose to die at the hands of men and to cherish the hope that God gives of being raised again by him. But for you there will be no resurrection to life!"

Responsorial Psalm PS 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

R. (15b) **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Hear, O LORD, a just suit;
attend to my outcry;
hearken to my prayer from lips without deceit.

R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

My steps have been steadfast in your paths,

my feet have not faltered.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my word.

R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye,
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

But I in justice shall behold your face;
on waking I shall be content in your presence.

R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Second Reading — 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. ^{3:1} Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed on and triumph, as it did among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not all have faith.

³ But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things which we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Gospel Reading — Luke 20:27-38 ²⁷ There

came to him some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, ²⁸ and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the wife and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and died without children; ³⁰ and the second ³¹ and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died.

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³² Afterward the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.” ³⁴ And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him.”

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

1. What is the spiritual principle by which this family lived?

Second Reading — 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

2. How does “eternal comfort and good hope” enable us to remain “steadfastness” in Christ?

Gospel Reading — Luke 20:27-38

3. To what degree do you think about heaven and life after death?
4. What have you come to believe about heaven and life after death? What other insight does Scripture give about heaven?
5. How should belief in, and consciousness of heaven and life after death affect the way we live?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.