

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —OCTOBER 25, 2020

## First Reading — Exodus 22:21-27 (20-26 NAB)

<sup>21</sup> “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. <sup>22</sup> You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. <sup>23</sup> If you do afflict them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry; <sup>24</sup> and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. <sup>25</sup> “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be to him as a creditor, and you shall not exact interest from him. <sup>26</sup> If ever you take your neighbor’s garment in pledge, you shall restore it to him before the sun goes down; <sup>27</sup> for that is his only covering, it is his mantle for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

## Responsorial Psalm PS 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

**R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength,  
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

My God, my rock of refuge,  
my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!

Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,  
and I am safe from my enemies.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock!  
Extolled be God my savior.

You who gave great victories to your king  
and showed kindness to your anointed.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

## Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

...<sup>5</sup> for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we

proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit; <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report concerning us what a welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

## Gospel Reading — Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### 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 —

1. What are the values the Holy Spirit is emphasizing through this passage?
2. What kind of conflicted opinions do people have about the poor and strangers (immigrants)?

#### Second Reading —

3. Whose example of faith would you like to imitate? Why?
4. What in your faith life would you like to have others imitate?

#### Gospel Reading —

5. Explain what it means to love God with all your heart.
6. What is the opposite of loving God with all your soul?
7. How can someone increase their ability to love God with all their mind? ...all their heart? ...all their soul?

### 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.*