

# The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

17 October 2021

## First Reading Is 53:10-11

*If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, and have long life.*

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.  
If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life  
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.  
His soul's anguish over  
he shall see the light and be content.  
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,  
taking their faults on himself.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22**

*(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. *(R.)*
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love.  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. *(R.)*
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. *(R.)*

## Second Reading Heb 4:14-16

*Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.*

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

## Gospel Acclamation Mk 10:45

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Son of Man came to serve  
and to give his life as a ransom for all.  
Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 10:35-45

**(or shorter form Mk 10:42-45)**

*The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The sons of Zebedee expected Jesus to lead a Messianic revolt to throw off the yoke of imperial Rome. But they wanted to be part of a similar sort of power structure. They had not grasped that Jesus had come to turn that sort of society upside down.

However, over the centuries, the Church took on much of the trappings of power of imperial Rome. The popes governed much of Italy. Giuseppe Garibaldi was one of those generals who defeated the forces defending the Papal States, and in doing so actually liberated the papacy from its role as feudal overlord of much of Italy.

In the course of the campaign, when despondent, Garibaldi often reflected on the delightful time he spent on Three Hummock Island just off the coast of Tasmania. So we may say that the liberation of the papacy, enabling it to respond more clearly to today's Gospel, began in Tasmania!

Pope Francis embodies the spirit of today's Gospel. He rails against a Church exhibiting 'the leprosy of a feudal court'. Rather, he has said: 'I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.' And in his actions he has shown himself as a true 'Servant of the servants of God' as Jesus commands in today's Gospel.

We may pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis that he may have the strength and time to persevere in his responding to today's Gospel so that the papacy may be truly liberated so as to practise a radically different way of exercising leadership in the Church and for the world.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.  
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.