

**FIRST READING**

The king of the world will receive us into life eternal  
at the resurrection.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

7:1-2, 9-14

**K**ing Antiochus arrested seven Jewish brothers and their mother.

He had them beaten with heavy whips  
and tried to make them eat the meat of pigs,  
which was against their religion.  
But one of them spoke up and said,  
“Why are you torturing us like this?  
We will die before we disobey the laws of our ancestors!”

When the second brother was almost dead,  
he said to the king,  
“You’re cruel!  
You can kill us,  
but the King of this world will raise us back to life.  
And then we will live forever,  
because we died, rather than disobey his laws.”

When he died, they started torturing the third brother.  
They told him, “Stick out your tongue!”

Right away he stuck out his tongue  
and bravely stretched out his arms as well.  
He had a lot of courage and said,  
“God in heaven gave these to me.  
But I will give them up to obey his laws.  
I know that he will give them back.”

The king and all his troops were amazed at the young man’s courage.  
Here was someone willing to suffer.

After he was dead,  
the king’s troops beat and tortured  
the fourth brother in the same way.  
But just before he died, he said,  
“We are willing for you to kill us,  
because God has promised to raise us to life.  
But you have no hope of being raised to life.”

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

17:1, 5-6, 8 and 15

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

I am innocent, Lord!  
Won't you listen as I pray  
and beg for help?  
I am honest!  
Please hear my prayer.

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

I have followed you  
without ever stumbling.  
I pray to you, God,  
because you will help me.  
Listen and answer my prayer!

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

Protect me as you would  
your very own eyes;  
hide me in the shadow  
of your wings.  
I am innocent, Lord,  
and I will see your face!  
When I awake, all I want  
is to see you as you are.

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

## SECOND READING

May the Lord strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5

**B**rothers and sisters:

God our Father loves us.  
He is kind and has given us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope.  
We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father  
will encourage you and will help you  
always to do and say the right thing.

Finally, our friends, please pray for us.

This will help the message about the Lord to spread quickly,  
and others will respect it, just as you do.  
Pray that we may be kept safe from worthless and evil people.  
After all, not everyone has faith.

But the Lord can be trusted to make you strong  
and to protect you from harm.  
He has made us sure that you are obeying what we taught you  
and that you will keep on obeying.  
I pray that the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God  
and as patient as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

## **ALLELUIA**

Revelation 1:5a, 6b

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Jesus Christ is the firstborn from the dead;  
glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

He is not a God of the dead but of the living.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

20:27-38

The Sadducees did not believe  
that people would rise to life after death.  
So some of them came to Jesus and said:

“Teacher, Moses wrote  
that if a married man dies and has no children,  
his brother should marry the widow.  
Their first son would then be thought of as the son of the dead brother.

“There were once seven brothers.  
The first one married,  
but died without having any children.  
The second one married his brother’s widow,  
and he also died without having any children.  
The same thing happened to the third one.

“Finally, all seven brothers married that woman  
and died without having any children.  
At last the woman died.

“When God raises people from death,  
whose wife will this woman be?  
All seven brothers had married her.”

Jesus answered:

“The people in this world get married.  
But in the future world no one who is worthy to rise from death  
will either marry or die.  
They will be like the angels and will be God’s children,  
because they have been raised to life.

“In the story about the burning bush,  
Moses clearly shows that people will live again.  
He said, ‘The Lord is the God worshiped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’  
So the Lord is not the God of the dead,  
but of the living.  
This means that anyone is alive as far as God is concerned.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C**

**Prayer:**  
Dear God,  
Thank you for the gift of your friendship and love.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen

**Readings:**

2 Maccabees	7:1-2, 9-14
Psalm	17:1, 5-6, 8 and 15
Second Letter of Paul to Thessalonians	2:16 – 3:5
Luke	20:27-38

**Reflection:**  
What is heaven like? Sometimes we say things like, "This dessert is heaven!" or "I'm in heaven" when we are lying on a warm sunny beach. Often it is pictured as a place up in the sky in the clouds with big pearly gates. Two of our readings today talk about "the end of time", or heaven. It must be really great if people are willing to die rather than break some rules that will keep them from going there! In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that in heaven we will be like angels. "Awesome" you think, "How do I get there?" Some people believe that all you have to do is follow a list a rules the Church created, keep the Ten Commandments, pray everyday, be nice to people, etc. It's like having a checklist or earning a scout badge. When you fulfill the requirements, you get to go. Some of those people are in for a big surprise though! They may follow all of the rules but if they are doing it only to follow the rules and don't have Jesus in the hearts and their lives they will be very disappointed. Heaven isn't so much as a place but a way of living with God as our best friend. God gives us God's friendship (heaven) as a gift when we treat God as our friend and grow that friendship throughout our lives. How cool would it be to have God as your best friend?! Everything about God is good. And what about the miracles?! How cool would it be to have a best friend who could perform miracles?! But keep in mind that even though heaven is a gift, it is our responsibility to always work at becoming better friends with God. We do this by praying, following the Ten Commandments, learning from the Bible lessons, going to Church, helping others and being loving to everyone. Everything you do must be measured on how it helps or hurts your friendship with God.

**Discussion:**

1. What is it like to have God/Jesus as your friend?
2. Would the following actions help or hurt your friendship with God?
  - a. Going to Church on Sunday morning instead of sleeping-in...
  - b. Laughing at someone when they trip and fall...
  - c. Telling your friends it isn't nice to say mean things about a classmate...
  - d. Taking your classmate's cool pen without asking...
  - e. Talking back to your mother...
  - f. Being too busy to have time to pray...
  - g. Helping your brother with his homework instead of watching TV...



*(continued on next page)*

**Activity: Sweet Desserts**

Materials Needed: Enough for everyone in the class: small single pieces of individually wrapped hard candy (not small enough to be a choking hazard), cookies

**Directions:**

1. Give each child a piece of candy.
2. When everyone has a piece, ask the class who wants to eat theirs. Of course most everyone will but ask them to wait for a minute.
3. Show the class the cookies and tell them that they have a choice. They can either eat their piece of candy now or they can wait until after Mass to receive a cookie.
4. Those who choose to wait can trade their candy for a cookie after Mass.
5. Discuss that this is like heaven. Although things of this world can be sweet, heaven is even sweeter and we will not be disappointed if we wait for heavenly sweetness.