

# Prayer and Other Resources

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 July 2020

### First reading

**1 Kings 3:5,7-12**

#### **Solomon chooses the gift of wisdom**

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 118(119):57,72,76-77,127-130**

*Lord, how I love your law!*

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me  
than silver and gold.

*Lord, how I love your law!*

Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come and I shall live  
for your law is my delight.

*Lord, how I love your law!*

That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold,  
why I rule my life by your precepts,  
and hate false ways.

*Lord, how I love your law!*

Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple.

*Lord, how I love your law!*

## **Second reading**

**Romans 8:28-30**

### **Those he called, he justified**

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

*Either*

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 13:44-52**

### **He sells everything he owns and buys the field**

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

*Or*

## **Alternative Gospel**

**Matthew 13:44-46**

**He sells everything he owns and buys the field**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

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