

# SUNDAY READINGS

Twenty First Sunday after Trinity, 20 October

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## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
in whose service lies perfect freedom:  
teach us to obey you  
with loving hearts and steadfast wills;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(or)

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,  
to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 53.6-7, 11-12\*

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah*

All of us were like sheep that had wandered off. We had each gone our own way, but the Lord gave him the punishment we deserved.

He was painfully abused, but he did not complain. He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher, as quiet as a sheep having its wool cut off.

By suffering, the servant will learn the true meaning of obeying the Lord. Although he is innocent, he will take the punishment for the sins of others, so that many of them will no longer be guilty. The Lord will reward him with honour and power for sacrificing his life. Others thought he was a sinner, but he suffered for our sins and asked God to forgive us.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## SECOND READING Hebrews 5.7-10\*

*A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews*

God had the power to save Jesus from death. And while Jesus was on earth, he begged God with loud crying and tears to save him. He truly worshipped God, and God listened to his prayers. Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God. Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him. This is because

God chose him to be a high priest – like Melchizedek.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL Mark 10.35-45

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, will you do us a favour?'

Jesus asked them what they wanted, and they answered, 'When you come into your glory, please let one of us sit at your right side and the other at your left.'

Jesus told them, 'You don't really know what you're asking! Are you able to drink from the cup that I must soon drink from or be baptized as I must be baptized?'

'Yes, we are!' James and John answered.

Then Jesus replied, 'You certainly will drink from the cup from which I must drink. And you will be baptized just as I must! But it isn't for me to say who will sit at my right side and at my left. That is for God to decide.'

When the ten other disciples heard this, they were angry with James and John. But Jesus called the disciples together and said:

'You know that those foreigners who call themselves kings like to order their people around. And their great leaders have full power over the people they rule. But don't act like them. If you want to be great, you must be the servant of all the others. And if you want to be first, you must be everyone's slave. The Son of Man did not come to be a slave master, but a slave who will give his life to rescue many people.'

*At the end we say: Praise be to you O Christ*

## POST COMMUNION

Father of light,  
in whom is no change or shadow of turning,  
you give us every good and perfect gift  
and have brought

us to birth by your word of truth:  
may we be a living sign of that kingdom  
where your whole creation  
will be made perfect  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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\* Indicates that the lectionary provision has been adapted today.

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