

FIRST READING
2 Maccabees 7:1–2, 9–14

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

King 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 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.

FIRST READING
2 Maccabees 7:1–2, 9–14

(Continued)

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

Psalm 17:1, 5–6, 8 & 15

All: *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.*

All: *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!*

All: *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.*

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

SECOND READING
2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers 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.

GOSPEL
Luke 20:27–38

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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.

GOSPEL
Luke 20:27–38

(Continued)

“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.