

# Read

- 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14  
Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15  
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5  
Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27,  
34-38

## LIVING THE WORD

### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 10, 2019



#### REFLECTION

The First Reading tells of seven brothers and their mother who had remarkable courage by dying for their faith. Did you know that in one of the many catacombs in Rome where early Christian martyrs were buried, there were about half a *million* martyrs? Many, many people have died for the exact same faith that brings you to Mass to hear the Word and receive the Eucharist. They knew that God's gift of salvation was worth dying for. Jesus promised eternal life—there will be no death, and many conventions we know here will be gone. We simply cannot imagine the joy that awaits us. Today in western culture our lives are rarely threatened for being Christians, but many people look down on religion. Are we willing to be martyrs by giving witness to the Christian life rather than what is socially acceptable?

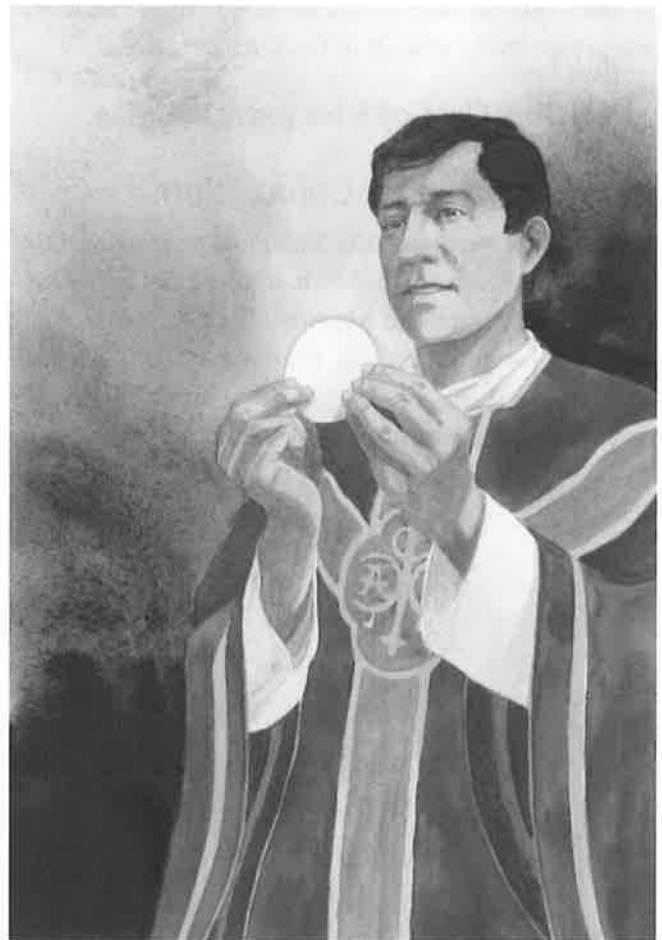


#### ACTION

Many of us are called to be martyrs of a new kind these days. It's likely no one will put us at knifepoint, but we may get teased or called a "prude" for being a faithful Catholic. We may notice that some popular people don't want to be our friends, or that people mock the Church disrespectfully. That kind of martyrdom is hard to bear too! Today, write down all the things you imagine we will encounter when we ultimately receive the gift of eternal life. We cannot truly know until we get there, but knowing that there is something better than anything on earth can help us hold on to our faith when things get hard.

#### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What did the martyrs know that led them to die for their faith?
- ❖ Do you notice examples around me either in popular culture or in your own life when popular opinion goes against religion and Christians are laughed at or disregarded?





November 10, 2019

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #156C

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

### Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

In today's Gospel, a group of Sadducees pose a question to Jesus. On the surface, the question is about interpretation of the Law involving marriage. Their intent was to trick Jesus into either denying or affirming the resurrection of the dead. In his response, Jesus' response is telling: to God, all are alive.

**Q FOCUS:** *Our God is the god of the living.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

In these later weeks of the liturgical year, we focus on ultimate things—life, death, and eternal life. This week, we celebrate the Memorials of St. Martin of Tours, St. Josaphat, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. They, with all the saints, placed their faith in the hope and promise of the resurrection.

### Church Teaching Connection

Our belief in the hope of the resurrection and the promise of eternal life are central to our faith in Jesus Christ. While this may seem on the surface to be an academic or theological tenant, it has great bearing on the way in which we are called to live and the perspective faith brings to our daily lives (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 988-1004).

### Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 20:27, 34-38

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward.

Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise. That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob;

and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

In today's Gospel passage, a group of Sadducees pose a question to Jesus. We must first understand a little about them in order to break open this story. The Sadducees were a group of Jewish leaders who only held to the first five books of Scripture, the Pentateuch. Because of this, they did not believe in life after death, which developed in Jewish thought after the time the Pentateuch was written. Like the Pharisees about whom we have heard in other Gospel passages, these Sadducees question Jesus about his teaching. Specifically, they pose a question in order to push Jesus into saying something that either denies or affirms the resurrection, with the hope that he will agree with them on this point.

The question the Sadducees pose is about marriage. Their example concerns a Jewish law that prescribed that if a man died and his brother was not married, he was to marry his brother's widow in order to insure that she would be cared for and that the family line would continue. At the resurrection, whose wife would she be, they ask. Our reflection begins with Jesus' response to them.

There is more to this conversation than a simple question of marriage and resurrection. Jesus points to the impact of the resurrection on the way in which we live our lives now. He does not mean to indicate that marriage is no longer a valid or important state of life, but rather that whether single, married, vowed religious or ordained, our lives here and now are to be shaped by our belief in everlasting life.

► Do you sometimes think about the inevitability of death and judgment when you are facing a decision?

Jesus quickly moves the discussion from the extreme example that the Sadducees pose to address the real point of their question.

► Why would Moses have addressed God at the burning bush in the way he did, were it not for his belief that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were now with God for eternity?

Jesus declares that God is “not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive” (Luke 20:38).

This brings greater perspective to the way we live: our focus in this life is to reflect our conviction of the promise of everlasting life with God.

► In what ways does faith give your perspective?

► What does this mean for us practically, in our day-to-day lives?

Our lives have meaning in the moment, and over time. Belief in the resurrection means that our actions now have eternal consequence. Through belief in the resurrection, we also gain perspective when facing difficulties in life—death, sin, trial, or disaster—Christ triumphs over all that is not of life, God, and hope. United with Christ through Baptism, we can trust that God is with us in every circumstance. And we are assured that death does not have the final word.

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 66.*

In what ways does faith give you hope when facing difficulties?

How does your faith in Jesus Christ affect your view of death?

How does the promise of the resurrection console you?

# Act on the Word

## Learning from Experience

*Plan ahead to invite people who represent a variety of life vocations for a panel discussion. If possible, include a married person or couple, priest, vowed religious, and a single person.*

Before you begin the panel discussion, invite the teens to write questions about the impact of faith in the lives of the panelists. Ask each panel member to first talk about the way their faith and hope of the resurrection affects the way they live their vocation. In what ways is Christ at the center of their lives? How do they devote themselves to God while balancing the demands of their vocation? What is the challenge and blessing of the vocation to which they have been called?

Once each panelist has spoken, invite the teens to ask their questions. They do not need to limit themselves to the questions they thought of before the panel spoke. If possible, keep the discussion conversational, so that the panelists and teens can respond and move with the direction of the conversation as it develops.

## Christ Is at the Center

*For this activity, you need magazines, paper, glue, scissors, and markers. Prepare in advance a blank sheet of paper with an image of Christ in the center of the sheet. Photocopy this sheet so that each person receives one as a handout.*

Jesus' underlying message in today's Gospel is that our belonging to and faith in him is to have bearing on everything: our relationships with others, the structure of our lives, our daily decisions, and the ways in which we carry out our life vocations and careers.

Divide into small groups and ask the teens to talk about the perspective that the promise of eternal life brings to their daily actions and decisions. They might walk through a typical day, or talk about challenging situations with peers, at home, or in their spiritual life.

Invite the teens to illustrate on their handouts what putting Christ at the center of our lives and being assured that God is with us calls them to be and to do in their daily lives.

Invite them to share their collages with one another, explaining the meaning or significance of specific images and sharing the ways in which faith impacts their daily living.

Encourage the teens to take their collage home or to school, and invite their continued reflection on this in the coming week.

## Closing Prayer

*Ever-living God,  
your loving covenant with us has no end.  
Renew our believe in eternal life  
and the new creation in which we already live.  
May all we say and do bear witness  
to the transforming trance of your Son,  
Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*