

Reading for the Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

10th August 2024

First reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

God loves a cheerful giver

Do not forget: thin sowing means thin reaping; the more you sow, the more you reap. Each one should give what he has decided in his own mind, not grudgingly or because he is made to, for *God loves a cheerful giver*. And there is no limit to the blessings which God can send you – he will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance, and still have something to spare for all sorts of good works. As scripture says: *He was free in almsgiving, and gave to the poor: his good deeds will never be forgotten.*

The one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide you with all the seed you want and make the harvest of your good deeds a larger one.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111(112):1-2,5-9

Happy the man who takes pity and lends.

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.

His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Jn8:12bc

Gospel

John 12:24-26

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

In our Gospel passage today, we hear of this reminder through the account of the Gospel according to St. John in which the Lord Jesus told His disciples that 'Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the earth and dies, it remains alone, and it only bears much fruits if it dies, blessing others with great bounty of its fruits.'

This signifies first of all the premonition of what the Lord Himself would have to suffer, as He would suffer and die on His Cross, at the moment of His Passion, for the salvation of the whole world.

But it also symbolises and represents the need for all of us Christians to be like Christ in obeying the Lord's will, His Law and commandments, and to follow His example in doing whatever He has done out of His great and ever enduring love for each and every one of us.

As Christians, that is as God's holy and beloved people, each and every one of us has been called and entrusted with the various missions and opportunities in our respective areas in life that God has led us into, and which He has directed us all to journey through.

That is why, as His people, His followers and disciples, each and every one of us should do our best in whatever we can do, so that our lives, our every action, word and deed may always be filled with God's grace and love, and that we will always glorify Him by our every action, in every moment of our lives.