



Tuesday 10th August 2021

Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

First Reading

2 Cor 9:6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Ps 111:1-2. 5-9. R. v.5

(R.) Happy the merciful who give to those in need.

1. Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)
4. Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

Gospel

Jn 12:24-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Father will honour all who serve me.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on to 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.’



Reflection - Fr John Lovell

Today's First Reading from St Paul to the Corinthians begins, "Thin sowing means thin reaping; the more you sow, the more you reap".

The overall message from our readings today is one of abundance through generosity, for God loves a cheerful giver. Yet, this does not mean God doesn't love people who aren't this way. God loves everyone. However, we would do well to remember the old saying, "Goodness is its own reward", for in giving we also receive.

Its like that other old saying, "You can't have your cake and eat it". If we put aside a little of our income today for later-on, via a superannuation fund or other reliable investment, we will have a very nice 'nest egg' to sustain us later-on. Whereas if we don't have anything put aside, later-on we might find ourselves in a state of want. A similar situation applies to our life of faith: the more we invest in our Heavenly inheritance now, through helping others with a generous heart, the more we'll have waiting for us when the Lord comes for us. We also know that God's interest is infinitely more generous than any interest earnings we'll ever receive on our Earthly investments, for God is never outdone in generosity.

This message is not new. It's a message running through the whole of the scriptures, one that says don't just live for the moment, but be prepared for the life to come. As St Mary of the Cross Mackillop reminded us, "We are but travelers here". We are enrooted to the Promised Land.

Our Saint for today is St Lawrence, a Deacon and a martyr, who died in Rome in the year 258 AD. His focus on Christ and His Kingdom were so great, he was happy to give up his life in this world to show his persecutors how much more glorious is the life that awaits all who keep faith in the eternal Kingdom of God. With this in mind, let's also set our hearts on Christ and His Kingdom and today specially pray and thank God for all our wonderful Deacons.

Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

Feast day: August 10

Patron: of Rome, students, miners, tanners, chefs, poor, firefighters

Birth: December 31, 225

Death: August 10, 258

Canonized: Pre-Congregation

