

**FIRST READING**

Malachi 2:8-10

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi**

**T**he LORD says this:  
Although I am the LORD All-Powerful,  
you priests have turned from following me.  
Your teachings have led many people to do sinful things,  
and you have broken the promise that Levi made to me.

So I made everyone hate and despise you  
because you disobeyed me and did not treat all people alike.

Don't you know that we all have the same father?  
Didn't the one God create us all?  
So why do you cheat each other  
by breaking the promise that your ancestors made?

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 25:4-5abc,  
6 and 7cd, 8-9*

**All:** *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

*Show me your paths  
and teach me to follow;  
guide me by your truth  
and instruct me.  
You keep me safe.*

**All:** *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

*Please, LORD, remember,  
you have always  
been patient and kind.  
Show how truly kind you are  
and remember me.*

**All:** *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

*You are honest and merciful,  
and you teach sinners  
how to follow your path.  
You lead humble people  
to do what is right  
and to stay on your path.*

**All:** *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

**SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

Brothers and sisters:

We could have demanded help from you.

After all, Christ is the one who sent us.

We chose to be like children

or like a mother nursing her baby.

We cared so much for you,

and you became so dear to us,

that we were willing to give our lives for you

when we gave you God's message.

My dear friends,

you surely haven't forgotten our hard work and hardships.

You remember how night and day

we struggled to make a living,

so that we could tell you God's message

without being a burden to anyone.

We always thank God

that you believed the message we preached.

It came from him,

and it is not something made up by humans.

You accepted it as God's message,

and now he is working in you.

**The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 23:1-12

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:  
"The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law  
are experts in the Law of Moses.  
So obey everything they teach you,  
but don't do as they do.  
After all, they say one thing and do something else.

"They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders  
and won't lift a finger to help them.  
Everything they do is just to show off in front of others.  
They even make a big show  
of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms,  
and they wear big tassels for everyone to see.  
They love the best seats at banquets  
and the front seats in the meeting places.  
And when they are in the market,  
they like to have people greet them as their teachers.

"But none of you should be called a teacher.  
You have only one teacher,  
and all of you are like brothers and sisters.  
Don't call anyone on earth your father.  
All of you have the same Father in heaven.  
None of you should be called the leader.  
The Messiah is your only leader.

"Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others.  
If you put yourself above others,  
you will be put down.  
But if you humble yourself,  
you will be honored."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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