

Sunday, November 5, 2023

The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) Malachi 1:14b–2:2b, 8-10
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13
- 3) Matthew 23:1-12

FOCUS: *Whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

At the heart of today's Gospel is this truth: *The greatest among you must be your servant.* Jesus' scorn for the scribes and Pharisees was based on their inability to understand this. Jesus took on the role of servant, giving his very life on behalf of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Malachi in today's first reading explains the consequences of showing partiality – division from one another and from God. In the second reading, Paul speaks of his affectionate love for the Thessalonian Church. In the Gospel, Jesus chastises the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, calling for humility and service.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive for unity, we bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord who makes us one.

- 1) For all clergy and Church leaders, may God grant them humble hearts of service in their witness of Jesus Christ to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political authorities, may the Lord guide them in pursuing peace and reconciliation among those divided, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have lost hope, may God provide the consolation and friendship that lights a way in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us embrace sacrificial living, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they know the joy of complete union with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your perfect will. This we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.