

## FEBRUARY 27, 2017

### **Reading 1 SIR 17:20-24**

To the penitent God provides a way back, he encourages those who are losing hope and has chosen for them the lot of truth. Return to him and give up sin, pray to the LORD and make your offenses few. Turn again to the Most High and away from your sin, hate intensely what he loathes, and know the justice and judgments of God, Stand firm in the way set before you, in prayer to the Most High God. Who in the nether world can glorify the Most High in place of the living who offer their praise? Dwell no longer in the error of the ungodly, but offer your praise before death. No more can the dead give praise than those who have never lived; You who are alive and well shall praise and glorify God in his mercies. How great the mercy of the LORD, his forgiveness of those who return to him!

### **Responsorial Psalm PS 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7**

R. (11a) Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,  
whose sin is covered.

Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,  
in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
my guilt I covered not.

I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD,"  
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

For this shall every faithful man pray to you  
in time of stress.

Though deep waters overflow,  
they shall not reach him.

R. Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

You are my shelter; from distress you will preserve me;  
with glad cries of freedom you will ring me round.

R. Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

### **Alleluia 2 COR 8:9**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ became poor although he was rich,  
so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel MK 10:17-27**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement, his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For men it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

### **Reflection:**

The rich young man: the teaching concerning the entrance into the kingdom. The entrance into the kingdom into the kingdom is defined as a gift of God offered to the helpless and the humble. Today's gospel precedes the third prediction of the passion, which bluntly defines the cross as the unique means of salvation. Within this context comes the story of the rich man who wants to possess eternal life, or the kingdom. Here Jesus gives his startling proclamation of the radical demands of the kingdom and the utter impossibility of attaining it through human endeavor. All the candidates for discipleship must give up anything which hinders them from taking Jesus seriously. It is a challenge which is beyond the ordinary capacities of humans. It is only by God's grace that a person can do this.