

January 27 Friday

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Reading 1 HEB 10:32-39

Remember the days past when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a great contest of suffering. At times you were publicly exposed to abuse and affliction; at other times you associated yourselves with those so treated. You even joined in the sufferings of those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you had a better and lasting possession. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence; it will have great recompense. You need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised. *For, after just a brief moment, he who is to come shall come; he shall not delay. But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him.* We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life.

Responsorial Psalm PS 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40

R. (39a) **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Trust in the LORD and do good,
that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will grant you your heart's requests.

R. **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Commit to the LORD your way;
trust in him, and he will act.

He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
bright as the noonday shall be your vindication.

R. **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

By the LORD are the steps of a man made firm,
and he approves his way.

Though he fall, he does not lie prostrate,
for the hand of the LORD sustains him.

R. **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

The salvation of the just is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in time of distress.

And the LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

R. **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Alleluia MT 11:25

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel MK 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the Kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

Reflection:

In today's gospel we have two short stories for our reflection: the story of the seed that grows by itself and the story of the smallest seed of mustard which grows big. Through the image of the seed, Jesus explains the kingdom of God as life full of vitality. Though the seed is tiny, it contains a tremendous power to bring forth something very much alive and active. The moment it touches the soil, it brings forth its circle of life. One seed contains millions of seeds of life. Therefore, the presence of the kingdom of God in us is a demand for our capacity to accept the invitation of God's love and share it as a life-giving force. Accepting God's love is to commit oneself to bring forth the fruits of love, joy, peace, faithfulness and humility for a world of brotherhood, truth and justice. With love alone we can be called people of life.