

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Year C



### THE GOSPEL [Luke 20:27-38](#)

*They can no longer die, for they are like angels;  
and they are the children of God  
because they are the ones who will rise.*

A  
place where  
no squalls rage and  
where flowers grow wild.

What can we bring along to that place?  
Crutches, pain pills, tranquilizers?  
How about our hearts,  
and spirits?

Lord,  
is there a piece of us  
that never dies?  
a sacred  
space in us  
where love resides?

Oh widen that space while time remains.  
Let our human hearts flow out  
now and forever with  
your boundless,  
infinite  
love.

**THE FIRST READING 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14**

*It is my choice to die at the hands of men  
with the hope God gives  
of being raised up by him.*

Jesus, please allow your  
gracious pledge  
of resurrection—  
help us to

bear all things, believe all things,  
endure all things,  
and hope  
always  
in  
you.

**THE SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 2:6-3:5**



*Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us,  
so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified*

Christ,  
give us your grace  
and strengthen our hearts,  
that your word might  
surge out

At the speed of sound  
to every place on earth. Anne Osdieck

## ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

*Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.*

As we move towards the end of the liturgical year, the readings invite us to think about endings: not in a fearful way, but with an invitation to hope and trust in the God of resurrection and life.

The **First Reading** tells of a valiant mother who, strong in her hope of the resurrection, encourages her faith-filled sons to suffer martyrdom rather than prove unfaithful to God. Jesus, answering the sly question posed by the Saducees (**Gospel**), demonstrates that they have not even begun to understand the transformation of life that will take place after the resurrection. Heaven is about union with the God who is Lord of life and the living. Paul prays that our Lord and Father may strengthen the young Christian community of Thessalonica with the grace of strength, comfort and hope (**Second Reading**). He also warns them to be alert to 'the interference of bigoted and evil people', who would prevent the Lord's message of love spreading quickly throughout the world.

The **Psalm** is a prayer of trust in God and appeals for deliverance from enemies who have wrongfully accused the psalmist. The images used to describe God are both intimate and striking.

This week, we pray for all innocent people in our own times who suffer imprisonment, torture and death.

We also pray that Christ Jesus's message of love and compassion for the whole of life may spread quickly throughout the world.

## A Priceless Answer

The group of scribes who posed their \$64,000 question to Jesus—which of the seven brothers would this woman have to marry once everyone had died? —did not remotely care which brother it was. Theirs was not an honest question, arising from a genuine desire to know what Jesus thought. The Sadducees were famous for not believing in the resurrection of the dead, so why would they be concerned about a dead woman and her many dead husbands? Obviously, this was a question, intended to make Jesus look like a fool. The implication was: your theory about eternal life is WAY too complicated. But Jesus was not one to be trapped by crafty legalists. You may be very smart, he said, but what happens after death is something beyond your ability to comprehend. Our life in God is a beautiful, mysterious thing; trying to explain it in strictly human terms is impossible. So back off, you who would try to trick me. Before the world began, **I was.** *Paula Huston - Give Us This Day.*



