

## Readings: Feria

### First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the Church of the Thessalonians  
in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters,  
as is fitting, because your faith flourishes ever more,  
and the love of every one of you for one another grows ever greater.

Accordingly, we ourselves boast of you in the churches of God  
regarding your endurance and faith in all your persecutions  
and the afflictions you endure.

This is evidence of the just judgment of God,  
so that you may be considered worthy of the Kingdom of God  
for which you are suffering.

We always pray for you,  
that our God may make you worthy of his calling  
and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose  
and every effort of faith,  
that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,  
and you in him,  
in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

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Responsorial Psalm: Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

R./ The Lord takes delight in his people. or: Alleluia.

Sing to the Lord a new song  
of praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in their maker.

let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.

R./ The Lord takes delight in his people. or: Alleluia.

Let them praise his name in the festive dance,  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.  
For the Lord loves his people,

and he adorns the lowly with victory.  
R./ The Lord takes delight in his people. or: Alleluia.

Let the faithful exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy upon their couches;  
Let the high praises of God be in their throats.

This is the glory of all his faithful. Alleluia!

R./ The Lord takes delight in his people. or: Alleluia.

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:13-22

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.  
You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men.  
You do not enter yourselves,  
nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.  
You traverse sea and land to make one convert,  
and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna  
twice as much as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say,  
'If one swears by the temple, it means nothing,  
but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.'  
Blind fools, which is greater, the gold,  
or the temple that made the gold sacred?"

And you say, 'If one swears by the altar, it means nothing,  
but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.'  
You blind ones, which is greater, the gift,  
or the altar that makes the gift sacred?"

One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it;  
one who swears by the temple swears by it  
and by him who dwells in it;  
one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God

and by him who is seated on it."

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