

10/7/2018 THE FIRST READING — The Twentieth Sunday after the Pentecost

In today's first reading, we hear of how Job's misfortunes have nothing to do with him, but with a wager between the Lord and Satan.

### A Reading from the Book of Job

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

**RESPONSIVELY BY HALF VERSE**

**A Reading of Psalm 26**

Give judgment for me, O Lord,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not  
faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O  
Lord,\*  
that I may go in procession round your  
altar,

Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful  
deeds.

Lord, I love the house in which you  
dwell\*  
and the place where your glory abides.

Do not sweep me away with sinners, \*  
nor my life with those who thirst for  
blood,

Whose hands are full of evil plots, \*  
and their right hand full of bribes.

As for me, I will live with integrity; \*  
redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on  
me.

My foot stands on level ground; \*  
in the full assembly I will bless the  
Lord.

**READER:** GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**PEOPLE:** AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOR EVER. AMEN.

In today's second reading, we hear of the superiority of Jesus and his vocation over all of God's other servants.

### A Reading from The Epistle to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**