

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 118)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, I love your commands.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, I love your commands.

**LECTOR:** My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **R.**

**LECTOR:** Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **R.**

**LECTOR:** That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **R.**

**LECTOR:** Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Or

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

**TODAY'S READINGS** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

**NEXT WEEK** (18th Sunday of Year A) Is 55:1-3; Ps 144; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21-23

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*God in our  
lives*



**26 July 2020 17th Sunday Year A**

The first reading of the liturgy tells of the story of King Solomon asking God for wisdom. This is the treasure we are looking for – the wisdom of the kingdom of God. In Matthew's gospel today, Jesus invites us to think about our efforts in promoting God's kingdom. Are we really trying our best to find God in our lives?

The parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl present the different ways of receiving the kingdom into our lives. In the first parable, the man finds the treasure accidentally while working in the field. In the second parable, the merchant has been spending a lifetime desperately searching for the one really great pearl. He knows what he is looking for. Both men are filled with great joy when they find the treasures and they do whatever it takes to keep them.

In these parables, Jesus is asking whether we are making God our priority? Can we sacrifice other things for the sake of the kingdom? God comes to us in different ways. We can find God in surprising situations; an experience of happiness, love, conversion, spiritual transformation, a life lived in depth. We need to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to keep this experience, sell everything to buy it. We may have to spend a lifetime finding God. But if we persevere, we will certainly find God.

The values of the kingdom of God are not limited to time and space. It is a state of life that God is calling us to. It is worth struggling and searching for. Jesus urges us to act to gain the kingdom while the opportunity presents. God's presence among us is ultimately mysterious and can't be limited to any one human explanation.

Like Solomon in the First Reading, we need the gift of discerning judgement to be able to find where God is in our lives. Sometimes, we would like God's presence to be clearer, so that God will appear, show us the way through life and make all our problems and anxieties disappear. That is too easy and does not allow us to grow. God wants us to win our spurs. We are to live out the unique gift of life God has given to each one of us, and through that living, to deepen our special and personal relationship with God.

We are to be involved in the struggle of life in all its challenging mixture of good and evil. But despite our occasional fears to the contrary, we are not alone. We have the presence of God living in and through us. We can take confidence from Paul's words to the Romans that even when we lose our way, we are reassured that God is there, turning everything to our good.

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