

November 4, 2018 (Sunday)
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Psalter: Week 3/(Green)
Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
I love you, Lord, my strength.
1st Reading: Dt 6:2-6
2nd Reading: Heb 7:23-28

Gospel: Mk 12: 28b-34

A teacher of the law had been listening to this discussion and admired how Jesus answered them. So he came up and asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is: Hear, Israel! The Lord, our God, is One Lord; and you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and

with all your strength. And after this comes a second commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these two."

The teacher of the law said to him, "Well spoken, Master; you are right when you say that he is one, and there is no other besides him. To love him with all our heart, with all our understanding and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves is more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice."

Jesus approved this answer and said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after

that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Lectio Divina

Read: Keep the commandments of the Lord and the commandments will keep you. Jesus declares the equivalency of loving God and loving neighbor. Jesus, the unblemished sacrificial lamb, is the priestly meeting ground of the love-triad: God, neighbor and I.

Reflect: "You are not far from the Kingdom of God," said Jesus to the lawyer who upheld the equivalency of love of God and neighbor. But there is a catch in the sentence: being not far only implies being close

enough; it is no guarantee that one is definitively within the Kingdom. What would move the lawyer—and us—from within the proximity to within the boundaries of the Kingdom? If knowing the greatest commandment with its equivalent love of God and neighbor takes us close to the Kingdom, it is doing the commandment that will move us in.

Pray: Ask God for the wisdom to know the commandments and the courage to do the same.

Act: Do an examination of conscience today. Where do you stand in relation to doing the commandments?