

ST. FRANCIS, OCT. 4, READINGS YEAR A

“Poverty, discipleship, minority.”

First Reading

A reading from the earlier Rule of St. Francis.

Let all the brothers strive to follow the humility and poverty of our Lord Jesus Christ, and let them remember that we should have nothing else in the whole world except, as the Apostle says: having food and clothing, we are content with these.

They must rejoice when they live among people considered of little value and looked down upon: among the poor and the powerless, the sick and the lepers, and the beggars by the wayside.

When it is necessary, they may go for alms. Let them not be ashamed and remember, moreover, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the all-powerful living God, set his face like flint and was not ashamed. He was poor and a stranger and lived on alms – He, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His disciples.

The Word of the Franciscan tradition.

(“The Earlier Rule,” chapter 9, Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, p. 70)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

The Word of the Lord

(Philippians 2:1-8, new revised standard version)

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 9: 51, 57-62, new revised standard version)