

**St Martin of Tours:** Born in Pannonia of pagan parents, Martin (316-397) received baptism, left his career as a soldier and founded a monastery in France, where he lived his religious life under the guidance of St. Hilary. Then he was ordained priest and was chosen as Bishop of Tours. He always gave the example of a good shepherd.



**First Reading:** (Wis 7:22 - 8:1) In wisdom there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle. For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom. For she is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is

found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

**Ps 118:89-91, 130, 135, 175**

**R./ Your Word, O Lord, stands for ever.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 17:20-25) Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Lo, there!' or 'Lo, here!' Do not go, do not follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

### REFLECTION

**Kingdom of God is not just a promise but a mission and responsibility.** Kingdom of God is not something to be waited for, nor something to be sought after outside of us. It is already in us and with us. It is entrusted to us as a responsibility and a mission. It becomes a reality when we live its values (i.e., live uprightly, work for justice and serve humbly) and when we proclaim it. Jesus did not teach us about a kingdom for which we have to wait for or look for but something that we need to 'live for', 'work for', 'suffer for' and 'die for'. This is what he taught us with his teaching, life, death and resurrection. The Kingdom of God becomes a reality when we live, work and die for it. How do I understand the kingdom? Do I see it as my mission and responsibility? Do I live its values and make it a reality in my life?