



Pope John Paul II: Karol Józef Wojtyła (1920-2005) was born in the Polish town of Wadowice. The second Papal conclave of 1978 was called after Pope John Paul I who died after thirty-three days of his papacy. Then-Cardinal Wojtyła was elected and adopted his predecessor's name as a tribute to the former pontiff.

First Reading: (Rom 7:18-25) I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Ps 118:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94

R./ Teach me, Lord, your statutes

Gospel: (Lk 12:54-59) Jesus said to the multitudes, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper."

REFLECTION

We always hear of the importance of reading the signs of the time. By seeing certain signs we can immediately come to certain conclusions. Jesus in the Gospel rebukes the people around him for not being able to see the signs of the times and to interpret them. They are able to interpret the signs of the nature, but fail in interpreting the present time. What Jesus intends is their failure to recognize His presence and his message of the kingdom. A critical recognition of the presence of Jesus will effect a change of outlook in oneself and towards the other which can bring harmony and reconciliation in the society. **A failure in recognizing the presence of Jesus can lead us bypass the graces and opportunities that God sends us to reform our own life.**