

CTW October 21-22, 2017

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Eileen Omundsen

Today's readings fill us with **hope** because they clearly proclaim that our God is present and very much at work in the world. In the first reading, we may be surprised to hear that Cyrus, an earthly king who had no knowledge of God, was moved to release the Israelites from bondage.

In the second reading, Paul praises the Thessalonians for living their faith in spite of the persecution they were forced to endure. He cites the Holy Spirit as the present and very real inspiration for the Christian Community's "work of faith ... labor of love and endurance in hope."

Finally, in today's gospel, the enemies of Jesus, while trying to trap Him, become unwitting agents of the message He wanted to proclaim. When we surrender our hearts and minds to the will and work

of the Lord, we offer praise and acknowledgement that God is sovereign over all the earth.

Our God of mystery consistently chooses the most unlikely agents to play a role in the eternal plan. Moreover, even in the most adverse circumstances good is accomplished by those who trust in God's powerful presence. As we read the daily headlines and tune into the news, how often do we look for the clues that there is goodness afoot? Lord of all, we ask that you continue to nurture enduring hope. Keep us ever mindful of the Spirit's work, and grant us the grace to cooperate with it.