

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who in the abasement of your Son  
have raised up a fallen world,  
fill your faithful with holy joy,  
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin  
you bestow eternal gladness.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

The Lord says this:

“Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!  
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!  
See now, your king comes to you;  
he is victorious, he is triumphant,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will banish chariots from Ephraim  
and horses from Jerusalem;  
the bow of war will be banished.  
He will proclaim peace for the nations.  
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,  
from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM** Psalm 144

**RESPONSE:** *I will bless your name for ever,  
O God my King.*

Or *Alleluia!*

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. **R.**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:9. 11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus exclaimed, “I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what I pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation dedicated to your name  
purify us, O Lord,  
and day by day bring our conduct  
closer to the life of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.*

Or

*Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,  
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that, having been replenished by such great gifts,  
we may gain the prize of salvation  
and never cease to praise you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: "As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 64

**RESPONSE:** *Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;  
whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!" <

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, "Why do you talk to them in parables?" "Because" he replied "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

"But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

"You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.*

Or

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.*

**COLLECT**

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Wisdom 12:13. 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 85

**RESPONSE:** *O Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R.**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> Jesus put a parable before the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?' 'Some enemy has done this,' he answered. And the servants said, 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?' But he said, 'No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.' " <

He put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches."

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through."

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables  
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, "Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us." He said in reply, "The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.*

Or

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord.  
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me,  
I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.*

**COLLECT**

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask what you would like me to give you." Solomon replied, "Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. "Since you have asked for this" the Lord said "and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you."

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM** Psalm 118

**RESPONSE:** *Lord, how I love your law!*

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me  
than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. **R.**
3. That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. <

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They said, "Yes." And he said to them, "Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness.

Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.*

Or

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*