

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.

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 Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord says this:

"From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of
its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that I,
the Lord, am the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low
ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the
withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 91

Response:

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most
High,

to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the
night. (R.)

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
in him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.

We are always full of confidence, when we
remember that to live in the body means
to be exiled from the Lord, going as we
do by faith and not by sight - we are full of
confidence, I say, and actually want to be
exiled from the body and make our home
with the Lord. Whether we are living in the
body or exiled from it, we are intent on
pleasing him. For all the truth about us will
be brought out in the law court of Christ, and
each of us will get what he deserves for the
things he did in the body, good or bad.

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!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

Jesus said to the crowds, "This is what the
kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed
on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps,
when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and
growing; how, he does not know. Of its own
accord the land produces first the shoot, then
the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And
when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he
starts to reap because the
harvest has come."

He also said, "What can we say the
kingdom of God is like? What parable can
we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which
at the time of its sowing in the soil is the
smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once
it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of
them all and puts out big branches so that
the birds of the air can shelter in its shade."

Using many parables like these, he spoke
the word to them, so far as they were capable
of understanding it. He would not speak to
them except in parables, but he explained
everything to his disciples when they were
alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human
nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this
do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion,
O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.