

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Cycle C

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Dear St. Joseph, pure and gentle,
Guardian of the Saviour child,
Treading with the virgin mother,
Egypt's deserts rough and wild.

*Hail, St. Joseph, spouse of Mary,
Blessed above all saints on high,
When the death-shades round us gather,
Teach, oh, teach us how to die,
Teach, oh, teach us how to die.*
2. He who rested on thy bosom
Is by countless saints adored;
Prostrate angels in His presence
Sing hosannas to their Lord.
3. Now to thee no gift refusing,
Jesus stoops to hear thy prayer;
Then, dear saint, from thy fair dwelling,
Give to us a father's care.
4. Hail St. Joseph, just and holy,
Loving children breathe thy name;
Here below, through toil and danger,
Love and care from thee we claim.



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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel
7:4-5. 12-14. 16
The Lord will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

The word of the Lord came to Nathan:
'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks:
When your days are ended and you are laid to rest with
your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body
after you and make his sovereignty secure. (It is he who
shall build a house for my name, and I will make his royal
throne secure for ever.) I will be a father to him and he a
son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always
stand secure before me and your throne be established for
ever."'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R] v. 37

R. His dynasty shall last for ever.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans
4:13. 16-18. 22
*Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled, he
hoped and he believed.*

The promise of inheriting the world was not made to
Abraham and his descendants on account of any law but on
account of the righteousness which consists in faith. That is
why what fulfils the promise depends on faith, so that it may
be a free gift and be available to all of Abraham's
descendants, not only those who belong to the Law but also
those who belong to the faith of Abraham who is the Father
of all of us. As scripture says: I have made you the ancestor
of many nations - Abraham is our father in the eyes of God,
in whom he put his faith, and who brings the dead to life and
calls into being what does not exist.

Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be
fulfilled, he hoped and he believed, and through doing so he
did become the father of many nations exactly as he had
been promised: Your descendants will be as many as the
stars. This is the faith that was 'considered as justifying
him'.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 83:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord,
for ever singing your praise.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
1:16. 18-21. 24
Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.

Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her
was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother
Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live
together she was found to be with child through the Holy
Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and
wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her
informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the
angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as
your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the

