

FIRST READING

12:4-7,11-15

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*The Lord trains the ones that he loves*

**In the fight against sin,
you have not yet had to keep fighting
to the point of death.
Have you forgotten that encouraging text
in which you are addressed as sons?
My son, when the Lord corrects you,
do not treat it lightly;
but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you.
For the Lord trains the ones that he loves
and he punishes all those
that he acknowledges as his sons.
Suffering is part of your training;
God is treating you as his sons.
Has there ever been any son
whose father did not train him?
Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time,
and far from pleasant;
but later, in those on whom it has been used,
it bears fruit in peace and goodness.
So hold up your limp arms
and steady your trembling knees
and smooth out the path you tread;
then the injured limb will not be wrenched,
it will grow strong again.
Always be wanting peace with all people,
and the holiness without which
no one can ever see the Lord.
Be careful that no one is deprived of the grace of God
and that no root of bitterness
should begin to grow and make trouble;
this can poison a whole community.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear.

**My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. R.**

**As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust. R.**

**But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! **Matthew 4:4**

**Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! **John 10:27**

**The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,
says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi*The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The Word of the Lord.**OR****FIRST READING**

2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23(24):7-10

R. Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

**O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! R.**

**Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. R.**

**O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! R.**

**Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Luke 2:32

**The light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

13:1-8

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever*

**Continue to love each other like brothers,
and remember always to welcome strangers,
for by doing this,
some people have entertained angels without knowing it.
Keep in mind those who are in prison,
as though you were in prison with them;
and those who are being badly treated,
since you too are in the one body.
Marriage is to be honoured by all,
and marriages are to be kept undefiled,
because fornicators and adulterers
will come under God's judgement.
Put greed out of your lives
and be content with whatever you have;
God himself has said:
I will not fail you or desert you,
and so we can say with confidence:
With the Lord to help me, I fear nothing:
what can man do to me?
Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you,
and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives,
imitate their faith.
Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday
and as he will be for ever.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 26(27):1,3,5,8-9

R. The Lord is my light and my help.

**The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? R.**

**Though an army encamp against me
my heart would not fear.
Though war break out against me
even then would I trust. R.**

**For there he keeps me safe in his tent
in the day of evil.
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe. R.**

**It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

cf. Luke 8:15

**Blessed are those who,
with a noble and generous heart,
take the word of God to themselves
and yield a harvest through their perseverance.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

13:15-17,20-21

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*May the God of peace, who brought back from the dead the great Shepherd*

**Through Christ, let us offer God
an unending sacrifice of praise,
a verbal sacrifice that is offered
every time we acknowledge his name.
Keep doing good works and sharing your resources,
for these are sacrifices that please God.
Obey your leaders and do as they tell you,
because they must give an account
of the way they look after your souls;
make this a joy for them to do, and not a grief –
you yourselves would be the losers.
I pray that the God of peace,
who brought our Lord Jesus back from the dead
to become the great Shepherd of the sheep
by the blood that sealed an eternal covenant,
may make you ready to do his will
in any kind of good action;
and turn us all into whatever is acceptable to himself
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22(23)

R. The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. R.**

**He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R.**

**You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R.**

**Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 10:27

**The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,
says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

1:1-19

A reading from the book of Genesis*God said, and so it was*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was a formless void,

there was darkness over the deep,

and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light.

God saw that light was good,

and God divided light from darkness.

God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night.'

Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said,

'Let there be a vault in the waters

to divide the waters in two.' And so it was.

God made the vault,

and it divided the waters above the vault

from the waters under the vault.

God called the vault 'heaven.'

Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven

come together into a single mass,

and let dry land appear.' And so it was.

God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas',

and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation:

seed-bearing plants, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.'

And so it was.

The earth produced vegetation:

plants bearing seed in their several kinds,

and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds.

God saw that it was good.

Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven

to divide day from night,

and let them indicate festivals, days and years.

Let them be lights in the vault of heaven

to shine on the earth.'

**And so it was. God made the two great lights:
the greater light to govern the day,
the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars.
God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth,
to govern the day and the night
and to divide light from darkness.
God saw that it was good.
Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103(104):1-2,5-6,10,12,24,35

R. May the Lord rejoice in his works!

**Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!** **R.**

**You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains.** **R.**

**You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing their song.** **R.**

**How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
Bless the Lord, my soul!** **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

cf. Matthew 4:23

**Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.
Alleluia!**

FIRST READING

1:20-2:4

A reading from the book of Genesis*Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves*

God said, ‘Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.’ And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.’ Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, ‘Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.’ And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’ God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.’ And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he had rested after all his work of creating. Such were the origins of heaven and earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 8:4-9

R. How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

**When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
mortal man that you care for him?**

R.

**Yet you have made him little less than a god;
with glory and honour you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hand,
put all things under his feet.**

R.

**All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Psalm 118:24

**Train me, Lord, to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Psalm 118:36,29

**Bend my heart to your will, O Lord,
and teach me your law.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

2:4-9,15-17

A reading from the book of Genesis*The Lord God took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden*

**At the time when the Lord God made earth and heaven
there was as yet no wild bush on the earth
nor had any wild plant yet sprung up,
for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth,
nor was there any man to till the soil.
However, a flood was rising from the earth
and watering all the surface of the soil.
The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil.
Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life,
and thus man became a living being.
The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east,
and there he put the man he had fashioned.
The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil
every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat,
with the tree of life
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
in the middle of the garden.
The Lord God took the man
and settled him in the garden of Eden
to cultivate and take care of it.
Then the Lord God gave the man this admonition,
'You may eat indeed of all the trees in the garden.
Nevertheless of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
you are not to eat,
for on the day you eat of it you shall most surely die.'**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103(104):1-2,27-30

R. Bless the Lord, my soul!

Bless the Lord, my soul!

**Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!**

R.

**All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. R.**

**You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 2 Timothy 1:10

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ abolished death
and he has proclaimed life through the Good News.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 17:17

**Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

2:18-25

A reading from the book of Genesis*He brought her to the man. They became one body*

**The Lord God said,
'It is not good that the man should be alone.
I will make him a helpmate.'
So from the soil
the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts
and all the birds of heaven.
These he brought to the man
to see what he would call them;
each one was to bear the name
the man would give it.
The man gave names to all the cattle,
all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts.
But no helpmate suitable for man
was found for him.
So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep.
And while he slept,
he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh.
The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman,
and brought her to the man.
The man exclaimed:
'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'
This is why a man leaves his father and mother
and joins himself to his wife,
and they become one body.
Now both of them were naked, the man and his wife,
but they felt no shame in front of each other.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 127(128):1-5

R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.**

R.

**Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.**

R.

**Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Psalm 144:13

**The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

James 1:21

**Accept and submit to the word
which has been planted in you
and can save your souls.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

3:1-8

A reading from the book of Genesis*You will be like gods, knowing good and evil*

**The serpent was the most subtle
of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made.
It asked the woman,
'Did God really say
you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?'
The woman answered the serpent,
'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden.
But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden
God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it,
under pain of death."'
Then the serpent said to the woman,
'No! You will not die!
God knows in fact that on the day you eat it
your eyes will be opened
and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.'
The woman saw that the tree was good to eat
and pleasing to the eye,
and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give.
So she took some of its fruit and ate it.
She gave some also to her husband
who was with her, and he ate it.
Then the eyes of both of them were opened
and they realised that they were naked.
So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.
The man and his wife heard the sound
of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,
and they hid from the Lord God
among the trees of the garden.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31(32):1-2,5-7

R. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven.

**Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.**

**O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. R.**

**But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. R.**

**So let every good man pray to you
in the time of need.
The floods of water may reach high
but him they shall not reach. R.**

**You are my hiding place, O Lord;
you save me from distress.
You surround me with cries of deliverance. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! *cf. John 6:63,68*

**Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Or:
Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! *cf. Acts 16:14*

**Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

3:9-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God expelled him from the garden of Eden, to till the soil.

The Lord God called to the man. ‘Where are you?’ he asked.

‘I heard the sound of you in the garden;’ he replied

‘I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.’

‘Who told you that you were naked?’ he asked

‘Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?’

**The man replied, ‘It was the woman you put with me;
she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.’**

Then the Lord God asked the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’

The woman replied, ‘The serpent tempted me and I ate.’

**Then the Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this,
‘Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts.**

**You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.**

I will make you enemies of each other:

you and the woman,

your offspring and her offspring.

It will crush your head

and you will strike its heel.’

To the woman he said:

‘I will multiply your pains in childbearing,

you shall give birth to your children in pain.

Your yearning shall be for your husband,

yet he will lord it over you.’

**To the man he said, ‘Because you listened to the voice of your wife
and ate from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat,**

‘Accursed be the soil because of you.

**With suffering shall you get your food from it
every day of your life.**

It shall yield you brambles and thistles,

and you shall eat wild plants.

With sweat on your brow shall you eat your bread,

until you return to the soil,

as you were taken from it.

For dust you are and to dust you shall return.’

**The man named his wife ‘Eve’ because she was the mother of all those who live. The
Lord God made clothes out of skins for the man and his wife,
and they put them on.**

Then the Lord God said,
'See, the man has become like one of us,
with his knowledge of good and evil.
He must not be allowed to stretch his hand out next
and pick from the tree of life also, and eat some and live for ever.'
So the Lord God expelled him from the garden of Eden,
to till the soil from which he had been taken.
He banished the man,
and in front of the garden of Eden he posted the cherubs,
and the flame of a flashing sword, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89(90):2-6,12-13

R. O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Before the mountains were born
or the earth or the world brought forth,
you are God, without beginning or end. **R.**

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Matthew 4:4

**Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

4:1-15,25

A reading from the book of Genesis*Cain set on his brother Abel and killed him*

The man had intercourse with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. 'I have acquired a man with the help of the Lord' she said. She gave birth to a second child, Abel, the brother of Cain. Now Abel became a shepherd and kept flocks, while Cain tilled the soil. Time passed and Cain brought some of the produce of the soil as an offering for the Lord, while Abel for his part brought the first-born of his flock and some of their fat as well. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering. But he did not look with favour on Cain and his offering, and Cain was very angry and downcast. The Lord asked Cain, 'Why are you angry and downcast? If you are well disposed, ought you not to lift up your head? But if you are ill disposed, is not sin at the door like a crouching beast hungering for you, which you must master?' Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out'; and while they were in the open country, Cain set on his brother Abel and killed him.

The Lord asked Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I do not know' he replied. 'Am I my brother's guardian?' 'What have you done?' the Lord asked. 'Listen to the sound of your brother's blood, crying out to me from the ground. Now be accursed and driven from the ground that has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood at your hands. When you till the ground it shall no longer yield you any of its produce. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer over the earth.' Then Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear. See! Today you drive me from this ground. I must hide from you, and be a fugitive and a wanderer over the earth. Why, whoever comes across me will kill me!' 'Very well, then,' the Lord replied 'if anyone kills Cain, sevenfold vengeance shall be taken for him.' So the Lord put a mark on Cain, to prevent whoever might come across him from striking him down.

Adam had intercourse with his wife, and she gave birth to a son whom she named Seth, 'because God has granted me other offspring' she said 'in place of Abel, since Cain has killed him.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 49(50):1,8,16-17,20-21

R. Pay your sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

**The God of gods, the Lord,
has spoken and summoned the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
'I find no fault with your sacrifices,
your offerings are always before me.'** **R.**

**'But how can you recite my commandments
and take my covenant on your lips,
you who despise my law
and throw my words to the winds?' R.**

**'You who sit and malign your brother
and slander your own mother's son.
You do this, and should I keep silence?
Do you think that I am like you?'** **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Psalm 94:8

**Harden not your hearts today,
but listen to the voice of the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 14:6

**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10

A reading from the book of Genesis*I will rid the earth's face of man, my own creation*

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that the thoughts in his heart fashioned nothing but wickedness all day long. The Lord regretted having made man on the earth, and his heart grieved. 'I will rid the earth's face of man, my own creation,' the Lord said 'and of animals also, reptiles too, and the birds of heaven; for I regret having made them.' But Noah had found favour with the Lord. The Lord said to Noah, 'Go aboard the ark, you and all your household, for you alone among this generation do I see as a good man in my judgement. Of all the clean animals you must take seven of each kind, both male and female; of the unclean animals you must take two, a male and its female (and of the birds of heaven also, seven of each kind, both male and female), to propagate their kind over the whole earth. For in seven days' time I mean to make it rain on the earth for forty days and nights, and I will rid the earth of every living thing that I made.' Noah did all that the Lord ordered. Seven days later the waters of the flood appeared on the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 28 (29):1-4, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court! R.**

**The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. R.**

**The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 14:23

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

8:6-13,20-22

A reading from the book of Genesis*He looked out; the surface of the ground*

At the end of forty days Noah opened the porthole he had made in the ark and he sent out the raven. This went off, and flew back and forth until the waters dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove, to see whether the waters were receding from the surface of the earth. The dove, finding nowhere to perch, returned to him in the ark, for there was water over the whole surface of the earth; putting out his hand he took hold of it and brought it back into the ark with him. After waiting seven more days, again he sent out the dove from the ark. In the evening, the dove came back to him and there it was with a new olive-branch in its beak. So Noah realised that the waters were receding from the earth. After waiting seven more days he sent out the dove, and now it returned to him no more.

It was in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month and on the first of the month, that the water dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the hatch of the ark and looked out. The surface of the ground was dry!

Noah built an altar for the Lord, and choosing from all the clean animals and all the clean birds he offered burnt offerings on the altar. The Lord smelt the appeasing fragrance and said to himself, 'Never again will I curse the earth because of man, because his heart contrives evil from his infancy. Never again will I strike down every living thing as I have done.

**'As long as earth lasts,
sowing and reaping,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
shall cease no more.'**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 115(116):12-15,18-19

R. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make to you, O Lord.

**How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. R.**

**My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. R.**

**My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! Psalm 118:105

**Your word is a lamp for my steps
and a light for my path.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia! cf. Ephesians 1:17,18

**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!

FIRST READING

9:1-13

A reading from the book of Genesis

I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth

God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. Be the terror and the dread of all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven, of everything that crawls on the ground and all the fish of the sea; they are handed over to you. Every living and crawling thing shall provide food for you, no less than the foliage of plants. I give you everything, with this exception: you must not eat flesh with life, that is to say blood, in it. I will demand an account of your life-blood. I will demand an account from every beast and from man. I will demand an account of every man’s life from his fellow men.

‘He who sheds man’s blood shall have his blood shed by man, for in the image of God man was made.

‘As for you, be fruitful, multiply, teem over the earth and be lord of it.’

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 101(102):16-21,29,22-23

R. The Lord looked down from heaven to the earth.

**The nations shall fear the name of the Lord
and all the earth's kings your glory,
when the Lord shall build up Zion again
and appear in all his glory.**

**Then he will turn to the prayers of the helpless;
he will not despise their prayers. R.**

**Let this be written for ages to come
that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord;
for the Lord leaned down from his sanctuary on high.
He looked down from heaven to the earth
that he might hear the groans of the prisoners
and free those condemned to die. R.**

**The sons of your servants shall dwell untroubled
and their race shall endure before you
that the name of the Lord may be proclaimed in Zion
and his praise in the heart of Jerusalem,
when peoples and kingdoms are gathered together
to pay their homage to the Lord. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

James 1:18

**By his own choice the Father made us his children
by the message of the truth,
so that we should be a sort of first-fruits
of all that he created.**

Alleluia!

Or: Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

cf. John 6:63,68

**Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

11:1-9

A reading from the book of Genesis*The tower of Babel*

**Throughout the earth men spoke the same language,
with the same vocabulary.**

**Now as they moved eastwards they found a plain in the land of Shinar
where they settled.**

They said to one another,

‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them in the fire.’

(For stone they used bricks, and for mortar they used bitumen).

**‘Come,’ they said ‘let us build ourselves a town
and a tower with its top reaching heaven.**

**Let us make a name for ourselves,
so that we may not be scattered about the whole earth.’**

**Now the Lord came down to see the town
and the tower that the sons of man had built.**

**‘So they are all a single people with a single language!’
said the Lord.**

‘This is but the start of their undertakings!

There will be nothing too hard for them to do.

**Come, let us go down and confuse their language
on the spot so that they can no longer understand one another.’**

**The Lord scattered them thence over the whole face of the earth,
and they stopped building the town.**

It was named Babel therefore,

because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth.

**It was from there that the Lord scattered them
over the whole face of the earth.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32(33):10-15

R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

**He frustrates the designs of the nations,
he defeats the plans of the peoples.
His own designs shall stand for ever,
the plans of his heart from age to age. R.**

**They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
he sees all the children of men. R.**

**From the place where he dwells he gazes
on all the dwellers on the earth;
he who shapes the hearts of them all;
and considers all their deeds. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

**Whenever anyone obeys what Christ has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 15:15

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

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

11:1-7

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*It is by faith that we understand that the world was created by one word from God*

**Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for,
or prove the existence of the realities
that at present remain unseen.**

It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

**It is by faith that we understand
that the world was created by one word from God,
so that no apparent cause can account for the things we can see.**

**It was because of his faith
that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain,
and for that he was declared to be righteous
when God made acknowledgement of his offerings.**

Though he is dead, he still speaks by faith.

**It was because of his faith that Enoch was taken up
and did not have to experience death:
he was not to be found because God had taken him.**

**This was because before his assumption
it is attested that he had pleased God.**

**Now it is impossible to please God without faith,
since anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists
and rewards those who try to find him.**

**It was through his faith that Noah,
when he had been warned by God
of something that had never been seen before,
felt a holy fear and built an ark to save his family.**

**By his faith the world was convicted,
and he was able to claim the righteousness
which is the reward of faith.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144(145):2-5,10-11

R. I will bless your name for ever, O Lord.

**I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. R.**

**Age to age shall proclaim your works,
shall declare your mighty deeds,
shall speak of your splendour and glory,
tell the tale of your wonderful works. R.**

**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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Psalm 147:12,15

**O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
He sends out his word to the earth.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

cf. Mark 9:6

**The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

1:1-10

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*Before all other things, wisdom was created***All wisdom is from the Lord, and it is his own for ever.****The sand of the sea and the raindrops,
and the days of eternity,
who can assess them?****The height of the sky and the breadth of the earth,
and the depth of the abyss,
who can probe them?****Before all other things wisdom was created,
shrewd understanding is everlasting.****For whom has the root of wisdom ever been uncovered?
Her resourceful ways, who knows them?****One only is wise, terrible indeed,
seated on his throne, the Lord.****He himself has created her, looked on her and assessed her,
and poured her out on all his works
to be with all mankind as his gift,
and he conveyed her to those who love him.****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 92(93):1-2,5

R. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

**The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power. R.**

**The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. R.**

**Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

1 Peter 1:25

**The word of the Lord remains for ever:
What is this word?
It is the Good News that has been brought to you.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

cf. 2 Timothy 1:10

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ abolished death
and he has proclaimed life through the Good News.**

Alleluia!

FIRST READING

2:1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*Prepare yourself for an ordeal*

**My son, if you aspire to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for an ordeal.
Be sincere of heart, be steadfast,
and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.
Cling to him and do not leave him,
so that you may be honoured at the end of your days.
Whatever happens to you, accept it,
and in the uncertainties of your humble state,
be patient,
since gold is tested in the fire,
and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation.
Trust him and he will uphold you,
follow a straight path and hope in him.
You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not turn aside in case you fall.
You who fear the Lord, trust him,
and you will not be baulked of your reward.
You who fear the Lord hope for good things,
for everlasting happiness and mercy.
Look at the generations of old and see:
who ever trusted in the Lord and was put to shame?
Or who ever feared him steadfastly and was left forsaken?
Or who ever called out to him, and was ignored?
For the Lord is compassionate and merciful,
he forgives sins, and saves in days of distress.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 36(37):3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40

R. Commit your life to the Lord, trust him and he will act.

**If you trust in the Lord and do good,
then you will live in the land and be secure.
If you find your delight in the Lord,
he will grant your heart's desire.**

R.

**He protects the lives of the upright,
their heritage will last for ever.
They shall not be put to shame in evil days,
in time of famine their food shall not fail.**

R.

**Then turn away from evil and do good
and you shall have a home for ever;
for the Lord loves justice
and will never forsake his friends.**

R.

**The salvation of the just comes from the Lord,
their stronghold in time of distress.
The Lord helps them and delivers them
and saves them: for their refuge is in him.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

John 14:23

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.**

Alleluia!

Or:

Lector: Alleluia *All:* Alleluia!

Galatians 6:14

**The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord,
through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.**

Alleluia!