

FIRST READING

30:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy*See, I set before you today a blessing and a curse***Moses said to the people:****‘See, today I set before you****life and prosperity, death and disaster.****If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God****that I enjoin on you today,****if you love the Lord your God****and follow his ways,****if you keep his commandments, his laws, his customs,****you will live and increase,****and the Lord your God will bless you****in the land which you are entering to make your own.****But if your heart strays,****if you refuse to listen,****if you let yourself be drawn into worshipping other gods and serving them,****I tell you today, you will most certainly perish;****you will not live long in the land****you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.****I call heaven and earth to witness against you today:****I set before you life or death, blessing or curse.****Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live,****in the love of the Lord your God,****obeying his voice, clinging to him;****for in this your life consists,****and on this depends your long stay in the land****which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob****he would give them.’****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

R. Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

**Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. R.**

**He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. R.**

**Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind:
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Matthew 4:17

**Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

58:1-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah*Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me?*

**Thus says the Lord: Shout for all you are worth,
raise your voice like a trumpet.
Proclaim their faults to my people,
their sins to the House of Jacob.
They seek me day after day, they long to know my ways,
like a nation that wants to act with integrity
and not ignore the law of its God.
They ask me for laws that are just,
they long for God to draw near:
‘Why should we fast if you never see it,
why do penance if you never notice?’
Look, you do business on your fast-days,
you oppress all your workmen;
look, you quarrel and squabble when you fast
and strike the poor man with your fist.
Fasting like yours today
will never make your voice heard on high.
Is that the sort of fast that pleases me,
a truly penitential day for men?
Hanging your head like a reed,
lying down on sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call fasting, a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me
– it is the Lord who speaks –
to break unjust fetters and undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke,
to share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
to clothe the man you see to be naked
and not turn from your own kin?**

**Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50(51):3-6,18-19

R. A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.

**Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.**

R.

**My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.**

R.

**For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

cf. Amos 5:14

**Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

58:9-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah*Your light will rise in the darkness***The Lord says this:**

**If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.
The Lord will always guide you,
giving you relief in desert places.
He will give strength to your bones
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never run dry.
You will rebuild the ancient ruins,
build up on the old foundations.
You will be called ‘Breach-mender’,
‘Restorer of ruined houses.’
If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
and doing business on the holy day,
if you call the Sabbath ‘Delightful’,
and the day sacred to the Lord ‘Honourable’,
if you honour it by abstaining from travel,
from doing business and from gossip,
then shall you find your happiness in the Lord
and I will lead you triumphant over the heights of the land.
I will feed you on the heritage of Jacob your father.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85(86):1-6

R. Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

**Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.**

**Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you.**

R.

**You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.**

**Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

R.

**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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Ezekiel 33:11

**I take pleasure, not in the death of a wicked man
– it is the Lord who speaks –
but in the turning back of a wicked man
who changes his ways to win life.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

19:1-2,11-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus*You must pass judgement on your neighbour according to justice***The Lord spoke to Moses; he said:****‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel
and say to them:****“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.****“You must not steal
nor deal deceitfully or fraudulently with your neighbour.****You must not swear falsely by my name,
profaning the name of your God.****I am the Lord.****You must not exploit or rob your neighbour.****You must not keep back the labourer’s wage until next morning.****You must not curse the dumb,
nor put an obstacle in the blind man’s way,
but you must fear your God.****I am the Lord.****“You must not be guilty of unjust verdicts.****You must neither be partial to the little man
nor overawed by the great;****you must pass judgement on your neighbour according to justice.****You must not slander your own people,
and you must not jeopardise your neighbour’s life.****I am the Lord.****You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart.****You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence;
this way you will not take a sin upon yourself.****You must not exact vengeance,
nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people.****You must love your neighbour as yourself.****I am the Lord.”****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 18(19):8-10,15

R. Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

**The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.**

**The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.**

R.

**The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.**

**The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.**

R.

**The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.**

**The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.**

R.

**May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

2 Corinthians 6:2

**Now is the favourable time:
this is the day of salvation.**

All : Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The word that goes out from my mouth does not return to me empty

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33(34):4-7,16-19

R. The Lord rescues the just in all their distress.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;

from all my terrors he set me free.

R.

Look towards him and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him

and rescued him from all his distress.

R.

**The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.**

The Lord turns his eyes to the just

and his ears to their appeal.

R.

They call and the Lord hears

and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;

those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Matthew 4:4

Man does not live on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

3:1-10

A reading from the prophet Jonah*The people of Nineveh renounced their evil behaviour***The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah:****‘Up!’ he said ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city,
and preach to them as I told you to.’****Jonah set out and went to Nineveh
in obedience to the word of the Lord.****Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare:
it took three days to cross it.****Jonah went on into the city, making a day’s journey.****He preached in these words,****‘Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.’****And the people of Nineveh believed in God;
they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth,
from the greatest to the least.****The news reached the king of Nineveh,
who rose from his throne, took off his robe,
put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes.****A proclamation was then promulgated throughout Nineveh,
by decree of the king and his ministers, as follows:****‘Men and beasts, herds and flocks, are to taste nothing;
they must not eat, they must not drink water.****All are to put on sackcloth
and call on God with all their might;
and let everyone renounce his evil behaviour
and the wicked things he has done.****Who knows if God will not change his mind and relent,
if he will not renounce his burning wrath,
so that we do not perish?’****God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour,
and God relented:****he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50(51):3-4,12-13,18-19

R. A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.

**Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.**

R.

**A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.**

R.

**For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Joel 2:12-13

**Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
for I am all tenderness and compassion.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

4:17

A reading from the book of Esther

I have no helper but you, Lord

Queen Esther took refuge with the Lord in the mortal peril which had overtaken her. She besought the Lord God of Israel in these words:

**‘My Lord, our King, the only one,
come to my help, for I am alone
and have no helper but you
and am about to take my life in my hands.**

**‘I have been taught from my earliest years, in the bosom of my family,
that you, Lord, chose
Israel out of all the nations
and our ancestors out of all the people of old times
to be your heritage for ever;
and that you have treated them as you promised.**

**‘Remember, Lord; reveal yourself
in the time of our distress.**

**‘As for me, give me courage,
King of gods and master of all power.**

**Put persuasive words into my mouth
when I face the lion;
change his feeling into hatred for our enemy,
that the latter and all like him may be brought to their end.**

**‘As for ourselves, save us by your hand,
and come to my help, for I am alone
and have no one but you, Lord.’**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 137(138):1-3,7-8

R. On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

**I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. R.**

**I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. R.**

**You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Psalm 50:12,14

**A pure heart create for me, O God,
and give me again the joy of your help.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

18:21-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*Am I likely to take pleasure in the death of a wicked man
and not prefer to see him renounce his wickedness and live?*

Thus says the Lord:

**‘If the wicked man renounces all the sins he has committed,
respects my laws and is law-abiding and honest,
he will certainly live; he will not die.**

**All the sins he committed will be forgotten from then on;
he shall live because of the integrity he has practised.**

**What! Am I likely to take pleasure in the death of a wicked man –
it is the Lord who speaks –**

and not prefer to see him renounce his wickedness and live?

**‘But if the upright man renounces his integrity,
commits sin, copies the wicked man
and practises every kind of filth,
is he to live?**

**All the integrity he has practised
shall be forgotten from then on;
but this is because he himself has broken faith and committed sin,
and for this he shall die.**

But you object, “What the Lord does is unjust.”

Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust?

Is it not what you do that is unjust?

**When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin
and dies because of this,**

**he dies because of the evil
that he himself has committed.**

**When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest,
he deserves to live.**

He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins;

he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’ The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 129(130)

R. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. R.**

**If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. R.**

**My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord. R.**

**Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Ezekiel 18:31

**Shake off all your sins – it is the Lord who speaks –
and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

26:16-19

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

You will be a people consecrated to the Lord

Moses said to the people:

**‘The Lord your God today commands you
to observe these laws and customs;
you must keep and observe them
with all your heart and with all your soul.**

**‘You have today made this declaration about the Lord:
that he will be your God,
but only if you follow his ways,
keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances,
and listen to his voice.**

**And the Lord has today made this declaration about you:
that you will be his very own people as he promised you,
but only if you keep all his commandments;
then for praise and renown and honour
he will set you high above all the nations he has made,
and you will be a people consecrated to the Lord, as he promised.’**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,7-8

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

**They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!**

**They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. R.**

**You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. R.**

**I will thank you with an upright heart
as I learn your decrees.
I will obey your statutes;
do not forsake me. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

2 Corinthians 6:2

**Now is the favourable time:
this is the day of salvation.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

9:4-10

A reading from the prophet Daniel*We have sinned, we have done wrong.*

**O Lord, God great and to be feared,
you keep the covenant and have kindness
for those who love you and keep your commandments:
we have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly,
we have betrayed your commandments and your ordinances
and turned away from them.
We have not listened to your servants the prophets,
who spoke in your name
to our kings, our princes, our ancestors,
and to all the people of the land.
Integrity, Lord, is yours; ours the look of shame we wear today,
we, the people of Judah, the citizens of Jerusalem, the whole of Israel,
near and far away, in every country to which you have dispersed us
because of the treason we have committed against you.
To us, Lord, the look of shame belongs,
to our kings, our princes, our ancestors,
because we have sinned against you.
To the Lord our God mercy and pardon belong,
because we have betrayed him,
and have not listened to the voice of the Lord our God
nor followed the laws he has given us
through his servants the prophets.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 78:8-9, 11, 13

R. Do not treat us according to our sins, O Lord.

**Do not hold the guilt of our fathers against us.
Let your compassion hasten to meet us;
we are left in the depths of distress. R.**

**O God our saviour, come to our help.
Come for the sake of the glory of your name.
O Lord our God, forgive us our sins;
rescue us for the sake of your name. R.**

**Let the groans of the prisoners come before you;
let your strong arm relieve those condemned to die.
But we, your people, the flock of your pasture,
will give you thanks for ever and ever.
We will tell your praise from age to age. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

cf. John 6:63,68

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

1:10,16-20

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Learn to do good, search for justice

**Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the command of our God,
you people of Gomorrah.
‘Wash, make yourselves clean.
Take your wrong-doing out of my sight.
Cease to do evil.
Learn to do good,
search for justice,
help the oppressed,
be just to the orphan,
plead for the widow.
‘Come now, let us talk this over,
says the Lord.
Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.
‘If you are willing to obey,
you shall eat the good things of the earth.
But if you persist in rebellion,
the sword shall eat you instead.’
The mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 49(50):8-9,16-17,21,23

R. I will show God's salvation to the upright.

**'I find no fault with your sacrifices,
your offerings are always before me.
I do not ask more bullocks from your farms,
nor goats from among your herds. 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 do this, and should I keep silence?
Do you think that I am like you?
A sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me
and I will show God's salvation to the upright.' R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Ezekiel 18:31

**Shake off all your sins – it is the Lord who speaks –
and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

18:18-20

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Come on, let us hit at him

**‘Come on,’ they said, ‘let us concoct a plot against Jeremiah;
the priest will not run short of instruction without him,
nor the sage of advice,
nor the prophet of the word.**

**Come on, let us hit at him with his own tongue;
let us listen carefully to every word he says.’**

**Listen to me, O Lord,
hear what my adversaries are saying.
Should evil be returned for good?
For they are digging a pit for me.
Remember how I stood in your presence
to plead on their behalf,
to turn your wrath away from them.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 30(31):5-6,14-16

R. Save me in your love, O Lord.

**Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

It is you who will redeem me, Lord. R.

**I have heard the slander of the crowd,
fear is all around me,
as they plot together against me,
as they plan to take my life. R.**

But as for me, I trust in you, Lord;

I say: ‘You are my God.

**My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.’ R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 8:12

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

17:5-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
a blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord*

The Lord says this:

**‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.**

**‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.**

**‘The heart is more devious than any other thing,
perverse too: who can pierce its secrets?
I, the Lord, search the heart,
I probe the loins,
to give each man what his conduct
and his actions deserve.’**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1:1-4,6

R. Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

**Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. R.**

**He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. R.**

**Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind:
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

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.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

37:3-4,12-13,17-28

A reading from the book of Genesis*Here comes the man of dreams. Come on, let us kill him.*

Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, for he was the son of his old age, and he had a coat with long sleeves made for him. But his brothers, seeing how his father loved him more than all his other sons, came to hate him so much that they could not say a civil word to him. His brothers went to pasture their father's flock at Shechem. Then Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers with the flock at Shechem? Come, I am going to send you to them.' So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them they made a plot among themselves to put him to death. 'Here comes the man of dreams' they said to one another. 'Come on, let us kill him and throw him into some well; we can say that a wild beast devoured him. Then we shall see what becomes of his dreams.'

But Reuben heard, and he saved him from their violence. 'We must not take his life' he said. 'Shed no blood,' said Reuben to them 'throw him into this well in the wilderness, but do not lay violent hands on him' – intending to save him from them and to restore him to his father. So, when Joseph reached his brothers, they pulled off his coat, the coat with long sleeves that he was wearing, and catching hold of him they threw him into the well, an empty well with no water in it. They then sat down to eat.

Looking up they saw a group of Ishmaelites who were coming from Gilead, their camels laden with gum, tragacanth, balsam and resin, which they were taking down into Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do any harm to him. After all, he is our brother, and our own flesh.' His brothers agreed.

Now some Midianite merchants were passing, and they drew Joseph up out of the well. They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces, and these men took Joseph to Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104(105):16-21

R. Remember the wonders the Lord has done.

**The Lord called down a famine on the land;
he broke the staff that supported them.
He had sent a man before them,
Joseph, sold as a slave.**

R.

**His feet were put in chains,
his neck was bound with iron,
until what he said came to pass
and the word of the Lord proved him true.**

R.

**Then the king sent and released him
the ruler of the people set him free,
making him master of his house
and ruler of all he possessed.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 3:16

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

March 11: Saturday 2

FIRST READING

7:14-15,18-20

A reading from the prophet Micah

Tread down our faults to the bottom of the sea

**With shepherd's crook, O Lord, lead your people to pasture,
the flock that is your heritage,
living confined in a forest
with meadow land all around.**

**Let them pasture in Bashan and Gilead
as in the days of old.**

**As in the days when you came out of Egypt
grant us to see wonders.**

**What god can compare with you: taking fault away,
pardoning crime,
not cherishing anger for ever
but delighting in showing mercy?**

**Once more have pity on us,
tread down our faults,
to the bottom of the sea
throw all our sins.**

**Grant Jacob your faithfulness,
and Abraham your mercy,
as you swore to our fathers
from the days of long ago.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

R. The Lord is compassion and love.

**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.

**It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.**

R.

**His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.**

R.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Luke 15:18

**I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

5:1-15

A reading from the second book of the Kings

There were many lepers in Israel, but only Naaman, the Syrian, was cured

**Naaman, army commander to the king of Aram,
was a man who enjoyed his master's respect and favour,
since through him the Lord had granted victory to the Aramaeans.
But the man was a leper.
Now on one of their raids,
the Aramaeans had carried off from the land of Israel a little girl
who had become a servant of Naaman's wife.
She said to her mistress,
'If only my master would approach the prophet of Samaria.
He would cure him of his leprosy.'
Naaman went and told his master.
'This and this' he reported 'is what the girl from the land of Israel said.'
'Go by all means,' said the king of Aram
'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.'
So Naaman left, taking with him
ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten festal robes.
He presented the letter to the king of Israel.
It read: 'With this letter, I am sending my servant Naaman to you
for you to cure him of his leprosy.'
When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his garments.
'Am I a god to give death and life,' he said
'that he sends a man to me
and asks me to cure him of his leprosy?
Listen to this, and take note of it
and see how he intends to pick a quarrel with me.'
When Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments,
he sent word to the king,
'Why did you tear your garments?
Let him come to me, and he will find there is a prophet in Israel.'
So Naaman came with his team and chariot
and drew up at the door of Elisha's house.
And Elisha sent him a messenger to say,
'Go and bathe seven times in the Jordan,
and your flesh will become clean once more.'
But Naaman was indignant and went off, saying,**

‘Here was I thinking he would be sure to come out to me,
and stand there, and call on the name of the Lord his God,
and wave his hand over the spot and cure the leprous part.
Surely Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus,
are better than any water in Israel?
Could I not bathe in them and become clean?’
And he turned round and went off in a rage.
But his servants approached him and said,
‘My father, if the prophet had asked you to do something difficult,
would you not have done it?
All the more reason, then, when he says to you,
“Bathe, and you will become clean.”’
So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,
as Elisha had told him to do.
And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.
Returning to Elisha with his whole escort,
he went in and stood before him.
‘Now I know’ he said
‘that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

41(42):2-3,42:3-4

R. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life:
when can I enter and see the face of God?

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God.

R.

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God?

R.

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain,

to the place where you dwell. R.

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the
harp, O God, my God. R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 6:2

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory

Now is the favourable time:
this is the day of salvation.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

3:25,34-43

A reading from the prophet Daniel*May the contrite soul, the humbled spirit be acceptable to you***Azariah stood in the heart of the fire, and he began to pray:****Oh! Do not abandon us for ever,****for the sake of your name;****do not repudiate your covenant,****do not withdraw your favour from us,****for the sake of Abraham, your friend,****of Isaac your servant,****and of Israel your holy one,****to whom you promised descendants****as countless as the stars of heaven****and as the grains of sand on the seashore.****Lord, now we are the least of all the nations,****now we are despised throughout the world, today, because of our sins.****We have at this time no leader, no prophet, no prince,****no holocaust, no sacrifice, no oblation, no incense,****no place where we can offer you the first-fruits****and win your favour.****But may the contrite soul, the humbled spirit be as acceptable to you****as holocausts of rams and bullocks,****as thousands of fattened lambs:****such let our sacrifice be to you today,****and may it be your will that we follow you wholeheartedly,****since those who put their trust in you will not be disappointed.****And now we put our whole heart into following you,****into fearing you and seeking your face once more.****Do not disappoint us;****treat us gently, as you yourself are gentle****and very merciful.****Grant us deliverance worthy of your wonderful deeds,****let your name win glory, Lord.****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24(25):4-6,7a-9

R. Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. R.

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth

Because of your goodness, O Lord. R.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

He guides the humble in the right path,

He teaches his way to the poor. R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Joel 2:12-13

**Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
for I am all tenderness and compassion.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

4:1, 5-9

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy*Take notice of the laws and observe them***Moses said to the people:****‘And now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs
that I teach you today, and observe them,****that you may have life****and may enter and take possession of the land****that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you.****See, as the Lord my God has commanded me,****I teach you the laws and customs****that you are to observe in the land you are to enter****and make your own.****Keep them, observe them,****and they will demonstrate to the peoples****your wisdom and understanding.****When they come to know of all these laws****they will exclaim,****“No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.”****And indeed, what great nation is there****that has its gods so near****as the Lord our God is to us****whenever we call to him?****And what great nation is there****that has laws and customs to match this whole Law****that I put before you today?****But take care what you do****and be on your guard.****Do not forget the things your eyes have seen,****nor let them slip from your heart all the days of your life;****rather, tell them to your children****and to your children’s children.’****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20

R. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

**He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you.**

R.

**He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.**

**He showers down snow white as wool,
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.**

R.

**He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.**

**He has not dealt thus with other nations;
He has not taught them his decrees. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Cf. Jn 6:63, 68

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

7:23-28

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Here is the nation that will not listen to the voice of the Lord its God

**These were my orders: Listen to my voice,
then I will be your God and you shall be my people.
Follow right to the end
the way that I mark out for you,
and you will prosper.
But they did not listen, they did not pay attention;
they followed the dictates of their own evil hearts,
refused to face me, and turned their backs on me.
From the day your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until today,
day after day I have persistently sent you
all my servants the prophets.
But they have not listened to me, have not paid attention;
they have grown stubborn
and behaved worse than their ancestors.
You may say all these words to them:
they will not listen to you;
you may call them: they will not answer.
So tell them this,
“Here is the nation that will not listen
to the voice of the Lord its God
nor take correction.
Sincerity is no more, it has vanished from their mouths.”**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

**Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.**

**Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.**

R.

**Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.**

R.

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’** **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Joel 2:12-13

**Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
for I am all tenderness and compassion.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

14:2-10

A reading from the prophet Hosea*We will not say any more 'Our God' to what our own hands have made***The Lord says this:****Israel, come back to the Lord your God;
your iniquity was the cause of your downfall.****Provide yourself with words and come back to the Lord.****Say to him, 'Take all iniquity away
so that we may have happiness again
and offer you our words of praise.****Assyria cannot save us, we will not ride horses any more,
or say, "Our God!" to what our own hands have made,
for you are the one in whom orphans find compassion.'****– I will heal their disloyalty,****I will love them with all my heart,
for my anger has turned from them.****I will fall like dew on Israel.****He shall bloom like the lily,
and thrust out roots like the poplar,
his shoots will spread far;****he will have the beauty of the olive
and the fragrance of Lebanon.****They will come back to live in my shade;
they will grow corn that flourishes, they will cultivate vines
as renowned as the wine of Helbon.****What has Ephraim to do with idols any more
when it is I who hear his prayer and care for him?****I am like a cypress ever green,
all your fruitfulness comes from me.****Let the wise man understand these words.****Let the intelligent man grasp their meaning.****For the ways of the Lord are straight,
and virtuous men walk in them, but sinners stumble. The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 80:6, 8-11, 14, 17 R. vv. 9, 11

R. I am the Lord, your God; listen to my warning

1. **A voice I did not know said to me:
‘I freed your shoulder from the burden;
your hands were freed from the load.
You called in distress and I saved you. R.**
2. **‘I answered, concealed in the storm cloud,
at the waters of Meribah I tested you.
Listen, my people, to my warning,
O Israel, if only you would heed! R.**
3. **‘Let there be no foreign god among you,
no worship of an alien god.
I am the Lord your God,
who brought you from the land of Egypt. R.**
4. **‘O that my people would heed me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
But Israel I would feed with finest wheat
and fill them with honey from the rock.’ R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Mt 4:17

**Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

5:15-6:6

A reading from the prophet Hosea*What I want is love, not sacrifice***The Lord says this:****They will search for me in their misery.****‘Come, let us return to the Lord.****He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us;****he has struck us down,****but he will bandage our wounds;****after a day or two****he will bring us back to life,****on the third day he will raise us****and we shall live in his presence.****Let us set ourselves to know the Lord;****that he will come is as certain as the dawn,****his judgement will rise like the light,****he will come to us as showers come,****like spring rains watering the earth.’****What am I to do with you, Ephraim?****What am I to do with you, Judah?****This love of yours is like a morning cloud,****like the dew that quickly disappears.****This is why I have torn them to pieces by the prophets,****why I slaughtered them with the words from my mouth,****since what I want is love, not sacrifice;****knowledge of God, not holocausts.****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50(51):3-4,18-21

R. What I want is love, not sacrifice.

**Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.**

R.

**For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.**

R.

**In your goodness, show favour to Zion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Psalm 94:8

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

7:4-5,12-14,16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

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

Psalm 88(89):2-5, 27, 29

R. His dynasty shall last for ever.

**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.**

**‘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.**

**‘He will say to me: “You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.”
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall endure.’ R.**

SECOND READING

4:13,16-18,22

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

Abraham 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

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Psalm 83:5

**They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord,
for ever singing your praise.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

47:1-9,12

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*I saw a stream of water coming from the Temple, bringing life to all wherever it flowed*

**The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple,
where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold
and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east.**

**The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple,
south of the altar.**

**He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside
as far as the outer east gate**

where the water flowed out on the right-hand side.

**The man went to the east holding his measuring line
and measured off a thousand cubits;**

**he then made me wade across the stream;
the water reached my ankles.**

**He measured off another thousand
and made me wade across the stream again;
the water reached my knees.**

**He measured off another thousand
and made me wade across again;
the water reached my waist.**

**He measured off another thousand;
it was now a river which I could not cross;
the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross.**

He then said, ‘Do you see, son of man?’

He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river.

When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river.

**He said, ‘This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea;
and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome.**

Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live.

Fish will be very plentiful,

**for wherever the water goes it brings health,
and life teems wherever the river flows.**

**Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree
with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails;
they will bear new fruit every month,
because this water comes from the sanctuary.
And their fruit will be good to eat
and the leaves medicinal.’** **The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45(46):2-3,5-6,8-9ab

**R. The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

**God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress,
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea. R.**

**The waters of a river give joy to God’s city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day. R.**

**The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Psalm 50:12,14

**A pure heart create for me, O God,
and give me again the joy of your help.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

49:8-15

A reading from the prophet Isaiah*I have appointed you as covenant of the people to restore the land***Thus says the Lord:****At the favourable time I will answer you,
on the day of salvation I will help you.****(I have formed you
and have appointed you as covenant of the people.)****I will restore the land****and assign you the estates that lie waste.****I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out,'
to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'****On every roadway they will graze,
and each bare height shall be their pasture.****They will never hunger or thirst,
scorching wind and sun shall never plague them;
for he who pities them will lead them
and guide them to springs of water.****I will make a highway of all the mountains,
and the high roads shall be banked up.****Some are on their way from afar,
others from the north and the west,
others from the land of Sinim.****Shout for joy, you heavens; exult, you earth!****You mountains, break into happy cries!****For the Lord consoles his people
and takes pity on those who are afflicted.****For Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me,
the Lord has forgotten me.'****Does a woman forget her baby at the breast,
or fail to cherish the son of her womb?****Yet even if these forget,****I will never forget you.****The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144(145):8-18

R. The Lord is kind and full of compassion.

**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.

**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.

**The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Jn 11:25, 26

**I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

32:7-14

A reading from the book of Exodus*Do not bring this disaster on your people*

**The Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down now,
because your people whom you brought out of Egypt
have apostatised.
They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them;
they have made themselves a calf of molten metal
and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice.
“Here is your God, Israel,” they have cried
“who brought you up from the land of Egypt!”’
I can see how headstrong these people are!
Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them;
of you, however, I will make a great nation.
But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God.
‘Lord,’ he said ‘why should your wrath blaze out
against this people of yours
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt
with arm outstretched and mighty hand?
Why let the Egyptians say,
“Ah, it was in treachery that he brought them out,
to do them to death in the mountains
and wipe them off the face of the earth”?
Leave your burning wrath; relent
and do not bring this disaster on your people.
Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
your servants to whom by your own self
you swore and made this promise:
I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven,
and all this land which I promised
I will give to your descendants,
and it shall be their heritage for ever.’
So the Lord relented
and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105(106):19-23

R. O Lord, remember me
out of the love you have for your people.

**They fashioned a calf at Horeb
and worshipped an image of metal,
exchanging the God who was their glory
for the image of a bull that eats grass. R.**

**They forgot the God who was their saviour,
who had done such great things in Egypt,
such portents in the land of Ham,
such marvels at the Red Sea. R.**

**For this he said he would destroy them,
but Moses, the man he had chosen,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn back his anger from destruction. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector/Choir: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 3:16

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

2:1,12-22

A reading from the book of Wisdom*Let us condemn him to a shameful death***The godless say to themselves, with their misguided reasoning:**

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. He claims to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a son of the Lord. Before us he stands, a reproof to our way of thinking, the very sight of him weighs our spirits down; his way of life is not like other men’s, the paths he treads are unfamiliar.

In his opinion we are counterfeit; he holds aloof from our doings as though from filth; he proclaims the final end of the virtuous as happy and boasts of having God for his father. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God’s son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’

This is the way they reason, but they are misled, their malice makes them blind. They do not know the hidden things of God, they have no hope that holiness will be rewarded, they can see no reward for blameless souls.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33(34):16,18, 19-21,23

R. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted.

**The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.**

R.

**The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.**

R.

**He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

7:10-14,8:10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The maiden is with child

**The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said,
 ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself
 coming either from the depths of Sheol
 or from the heights above.’
 ‘No,’ Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’
 Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David:
 are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
 without trying the patience of my God, too?
 The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.
 It is this: the maiden is with child
 and will soon give birth to a son
 whom she will call Immanuel,
 a name which means “God-is-with-us.”’**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 39(40):7-11

R. Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

**You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
 but an open ear.**

**You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
 Instead, here am I.**

R.

**In the scroll of the book it stands written
 that I should do your will.**

**My God, I delight in your law
 in the depth of my heart.**

R.

**Your justice I have proclaimed
 in the great assembly.**

**My lips I have not sealed;
 you know it, O Lord.**

R.

**I have not hidden your justice in my heart
but declared your faithful help.
I have not hidden your love and your truth
from the great assembly.**

R.

SECOND READING

10:4-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will'

**Bulls' blood and goats' blood are useless for taking away sins,
and this is what Christ said, on coming into the world:**

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first:

*You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered,
that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin,
and you took no pleasure in them;*

and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.*

He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second.

And this will was for us to be made holy

by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 1:14

**The Word became flesh, he lived among us,
and we saw his glory.**

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62

A reading from the prophet Daniel*Have I to die, innocent as I am?*

In Babylon there lived a man named Joakim. He had married Susanna daughter of Hilkiah, a woman of great beauty; and she was God-fearing, because her parents were worthy people and had instructed their daughter in the Law of Moses. Joakim was a very rich man, and had a garden attached to his house; the Jews would often visit him since he was held in greater respect than any other man. Two elderly men had been selected from the people that year to act as judges. Of such the Lord said, ‘Wickedness has come to Babylon through the elders and judges posing as guides to the people.’ These men were often at Joakim’s house, and all who were engaged in litigation used to come to them. At midday, when everyone had gone, Susanna used to take a walk in her husband’s garden. The two elders, who used to watch her every day as she came in to take her walk, gradually began to desire her. They threw reason aside, making no effort to turn their eyes to heaven, and forgetting its demands of virtue. So they waited for a favourable moment; and one day Susanna came as usual, accompanied only by two young maidservants. The day was hot and she wanted to bathe in the garden. There was no one about except the two elders, spying on her from their hiding place. She said to the servants, ‘Bring me some oil and balsam and shut the garden door while I bathe.’

Hardly were the servants gone than the two elders were there after her. ‘Look,’ they said ‘the garden door is shut, no one can see us. We want to have you, so give in and let us! Refuse, and we will both give evidence that a young man was with you and that was why you sent your maids away.’ Susanna sighed. ‘I am trapped,’ she said ‘whatever I do. If I agree, that means my death; if I resist, I cannot get away from you. But I prefer to fall innocent into your power than to sin in the eyes of the Lord.’ Then she cried out as loud as she could. The two elders began shouting too, putting the blame on her, and one of them ran to open the garden door. The household, hearing the shouting in the garden, rushed out by the side entrance to see what was happening; once the elders had

told their story the servants were thoroughly taken aback, since nothing of this sort had ever been said of Susanna.

Next day a meeting was held at the house of her husband Joakim. The two elders arrived, in their vindictiveness determined to have her put to death. They addressed the company: 'Summon Susanna daughter of Hilkiah and wife of Joakim.' She was sent for, and came accompanied by her parents, her children and all her relations. All her own people were weeping, and so were all the others who saw her. The two elders stood up, with all the people round them, and laid their hands on the woman's head. Tearfully she turned her eyes to heaven, her heart confident in God. The elders then spoke. 'While we were walking by ourselves in the garden, this woman arrived with two servants. She shut the garden door and then dismissed the servants. A young man who had been hiding went over to her and they lay down together. From the end of the garden where we were, we saw this crime taking place and hurried towards them. Though we saw them together we were unable to catch the man: he was too strong for us; he opened the door and took to his heels. We did, however, catch this woman and ask her who the young man was. She refused to tell us. That is our evidence.'

Since they were elders of the people, and judges, the assembly took their word:

[Shorter version of the reading begins from here:]

Susanna was condemned to death. She cried out as loud as she could, 'Eternal God, you know all secrets and everything before it happens; you know that they have given false evidence against me. And now have I to die, innocent as I am of everything their malice has invented against me?'

The Lord heard her cry and, as she was being led away to die, he roused the holy spirit residing in a young boy named Daniel who began to shout, 'I am innocent of this woman's death!' At which all the people turned to him and asked, 'What do you mean by these words?' Standing in the middle of the crowd he replied, 'Are you so stupid, sons of Israel, as to condemn a daughter of Israel unheard, and without troubling to find out the truth? Go back to the scene of the trial: these men have given false evidence against her.'

All the people hurried back, and the elders said to Daniel, ‘Come and sit with us and tell us what you mean, since God has given you the gifts that elders have.’ Daniel said, ‘Keep the men well apart from each other for I want to question them.’ When the men had been separated, Daniel had one of them brought to him.

‘You have grown old in wickedness,’ he said ‘and now the sins of your earlier days have overtaken you, you with your unjust judgements, your condemnation of the innocent, your acquittal of guilty men, when the Lord has said, “You must not put the innocent and the just to death.” Now then, since you saw her so clearly, tell me what tree you saw them lying under?’ He replied, ‘Under a mastic tree.’ Daniel said, ‘True enough! Your lie recoils on your own head: the angel of God has already received your sentence from him and will slash you in half.’ He dismissed the man, ordered the other to be brought and said to him, ‘Spawn of Canaan, not of Judah, beauty has seduced you, lust has led your heart astray! This is how you have been behaving with the daughters of Israel and they were too frightened to resist; but here is a daughter of Judah who could not stomach your wickedness! Now then, tell me what tree you surprised them under?’ He replied, ‘Under a holm oak.’ Daniel said, ‘True enough! Your lie recoils on your own head: the angel of God is waiting, with a sword to drive home and split you, and destroy the pair of you.’

Then the whole assembly shouted, blessing God, the saviour of those who trust in him. And they turned on the two elders whom Daniel had convicted of false evidence out of their own mouths. As prescribed in the Law of Moses, they sentenced them to the same punishment as they had intended to inflict on their neighbour. They put them to death; the life of an innocent woman was spared that day.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22(23)

R. If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear.

**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

Ezekiel 33:11

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

**I take pleasure, not in the death of a wicked man
– it is the Lord who speaks –
but in the turning back of a wicked man
who changes his ways to win life.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers*If anyone is bitten and looks at the fiery serpent, he shall live***The Israelites left Mount Hor by the road to the Sea of Suph,
to skirt the land of Edom.****On the way the people lost patience.****They spoke against God and against Moses,****‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness?****For there is neither bread nor water here;
we are sick of this unsatisfying food.’****At this God sent fiery serpents among the people;
their bite brought death to many in Israel.****The people came and said to Moses,****‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you.****Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.’****Moses interceded for the people,****and the Lord answered him,****‘Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard.****If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.’****So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard,
and if anyone was bitten by a serpent,
he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.****The Word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 101(102):2-3,16-21

R. O Lord, listen to my prayer
and let my cry for help reach you.**O Lord, listen to my prayer
and let my cry for help reach you.
Do not hide your face from me**

in the day of my distress.

**Turn your ear towards me
and answer me quickly when I call.**

R.

**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. O Lord, listen to my prayer
and let my cry for help reach you.

**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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

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

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

3:14-20,24-25,28

A reading from the prophet Daniel*He has sent his angel to rescue his servants*

King Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, is it true that you do not serve my gods, and that you refuse to worship the golden statue I have erected?

When you hear the sound of horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, or any other instrument, are you prepared to prostrate yourselves and worship the statue I have made?

If you refuse to worship it, you must be thrown straight away into the burning fiery furnace; and where is the god who could save you from my power?’

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to King Nebuchadnezzar, ‘Your question hardly requires an answer:

if our God, the one we serve, is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace and from your power, O king, he will save us;

and even if he does not, then you must know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the statue you have erected.’

These words infuriated King Nebuchadnezzar; his expression was very different now as he looked at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

He gave orders for the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual, and commanded certain stalwarts from his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar sprang to his feet in amazement.

He said to his advisers,

‘Did we not have these three men thrown bound into the fire?’

**They replied, ‘Certainly, O king.’
‘But,’ he went on ‘I can see four men
walking about freely in the heart of the fire
without coming to any harm.
And the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’
Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed,
‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:
he has sent his angel to rescue the servants
who, putting their trust in him, defied the order of the king,
and preferred to forfeit their bodies
rather than serve or worship any god but their own.’**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Daniel 3:52-56

R. To you glory and praise for evermore.

**You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. R.
Blest your glorious holy name. R.
You are blest in the temple of your glory. R.
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. R.
You are blest who gaze into the depths. R.
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

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.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

17:3-9

A reading from the book of Genesis*You shall become the father of a multitude of nations*

**Abram bowed to the ground
and God said this to him,
'Here now is my covenant with you:
you shall become the father of a multitude of nations.
You shall no longer be called Abram;
your name shall be Abraham,
for I will make you father of a multitude of nations.
I will make you most fruitful.
I will make you into nations,
and your issue shall be kings.
I will establish my Covenant between myself and you,
and your descendants after you, generation after generation,
a Covenant in perpetuity,
to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.
I will give to you and to your descendants after you
the land you are living in, the whole land of Canaan,
to own in perpetuity,
and I will be your God.'**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104(105):4-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.**

**Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.**

R.

**O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.
He, the Lord, is our God:
his judgements prevail in all the earth.**

R.

**He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.**

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Cf. Ps 94:8

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*The Lord is at my side, a mighty hero***Jeremiah said:****I hear so many disparaging me,****“‘Terror from every side!’”****Denounce him! Let us denounce him!’****All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,****‘Perhaps he will be seduced into error.****Then we will master him****and take our revenge!’****But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;****my opponents will stumble, mastered,****confounded by their failure;****everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.****But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,****who scrutinise the loins and heart,****let me see the vengeance you will take on them,****for I have committed my cause to you.****Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord,****for he has delivered the soul of the needy****from the hands of evil men.****The Word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 17(18):2-7

R. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and he heard my voice.**I love you, Lord, my strength,****my rock, my fortress, my saviour.****My God is the rock where I take refuge;**

**my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes. R.**

**The waves of death rose about me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the snares of the grave entangled me;
the traps of death confronted me. R.**

**In my anguish I called to the Lord;
I cried to God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came to his ears. R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Cf. Jn 6: 63, 68

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

37:21-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I will make them into one nation

The Lord says this: ‘I am going to take the sons of Israel from the nations where they have gone. I shall gather them together from everywhere and bring them home to their own soil. I shall make them into one nation in my own land and on the mountains of Israel, and one king is to be king of them all; they will no longer form two nations, nor be two separate kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and their filthy practices and all their sins. I shall rescue them from all the betrayals they have been guilty of; I shall cleanse them; they shall be my people and I will be their God. My servant David will reign over them, one shepherd for all; they will follow my observances, respect my laws and practise them. They will live in the land that I gave my servant Jacob, the land in which your ancestors lived. They will live in it, they, their children, their children’s children, for ever. David my servant is to be their prince for ever. I shall make a covenant of peace with them, an eternal covenant with them. I shall resettle them and increase them; I shall settle my sanctuary among them for ever. I shall make my home above them; I will be their God, they shall be my people. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord, the sanctifier of Israel, when my sanctuary is with them for ever.’ **The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Jeremiah 31:10-13

R. The Lord will guard us
as a shepherd guards his flock.

**O nations, hear the word of the Lord,
proclaim it to the far-off coasts.**

**Say: 'He who scattered Israel will gather him
and guard him as a shepherd guards his flock.'** **R.**

**For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
has saved him from an overpowering hand.
They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion,
they will stream to the blessings of the Lord.** **R.**

**Then the young girls will rejoice and dance,
the men, young and old, will be glad.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will console them, give gladness for grief.** **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 3:16

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

42:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He does not cry out or shout aloud

**Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
Thus says God, the Lord,
he who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it,
who gave breath to its people
and life to the creatures that move in it:
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 26(27):1-3,13-14

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.**

**When evil-doers draw near
to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble and fall. R.**

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

**I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

**Hail to you, our King!
You alone have had compassion on our sins.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

49:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah*I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth*

**Islands, listen to me,
pay attention, remotest peoples.
The Lord called me before I was born,
from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.
He made my mouth a sharp sword,
and hid me in the shadow of his hand.
He made me into a sharpened arrow,
and concealed me in his quiver.
He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel
in whom I shall be glorified';
while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain,
I have exhausted myself for nothing';
and all the while my cause was with the Lord,
my reward with my God.
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 70(71):1-6,15,17

R. My lips will tell of your help.

**In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.**

R.

**Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.**

R.

**It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help. **R.****

**My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
(though I can never tell it all)
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

**Hail to you, our King!
Obedient to the Father, you were led to your crucifixion
as a meek lamb is led to the slaughter.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

50:4-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me

**The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.**

**For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.**

**The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.**

**My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.**

**The Lord is coming to my help,
who will dare to condemn me?**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68(69):8-10,21-22,31,33-34

R. In your great love, O Lord,
answer my prayers for your favour.

**It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.**

R.

**Taunts have broken my heart;
I have reached the end of my strength.
I looked in vain for compassion,
for consolers; not one could I find.
For food they gave me poison;
in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink**

R.

**I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving.
The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.**

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Hail to you, our King!

**Obedient to the Father, you were led to your crucifixion
as a meek lamb is led to the slaughter.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

FIRST READING

61:1-3, 6, 8-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring the Good News to the poor,
to give them the oil of gladness*

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all those who mourn
and to give them for ashes a garland;
for mourning robe the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.
But you, you will be named ‘priests of the Lord’,
they will call you ‘ministers of our God.’
I reward them faithfully
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their race will be famous throughout the nations,
their descendants throughout the peoples.
All who see them will admit
that they are a race whom the Lord has blessed.**

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 88:21-22, 25, 27 R. v. 2

R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**I have found David my servant
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him
and my arm shall make him strong.**

R.

**My truth and my love shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.**

R.

SECOND READING

1:5-8

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will'

**Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead,
the Ruler of the kings of the earth.
He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood,
and made us a line of kings,
priests to serve his God and Father;
to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.
It is he who is coming on the clouds;
everyone will see him, even those who pierced him,
and all the races of the earth will mourn over him.
This is the truth. Amen.
'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God,
who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.**

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!