

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

COLLECT

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 64

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

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

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

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

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

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Or

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

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Or

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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