

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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

**COLLECT**

O God, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord says this:

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 91

**RESPONSE:** *It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**
3. Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

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

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

Or

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

**GOSPEL** Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

Or

*Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,  
that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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