Reflection on the Gospel

We are not complacent. The mystery of Christianity, the life, death, resurrection, and ongoing life of Jesus animates us. Any tendency to become lethargic is thwarted by a resounding call to “stay awake!”

We are not carried away by a glittering spectacle. Our life in Christ makes us rooted in God’s vision of the world. We see the world through new lenses. We are prepared for anything that might come. In a state of preparation, then, we are alert, aware, and awake. The metamorphosis on the horizon approaches. It is coming, though we know not when.

—Living Liturgy™, First Sunday of Advent 2019

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 25[24]:1-3)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 1) (Isaiah 2:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.
This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,  
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
   In days to come,  
the mountain of the LORD’s house  
shall be established as the highest mountain  
and raised above the hills.  
All nations shall stream toward it;  
many peoples shall come and say:  
“Come, let us climb the LORD’s mountain,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may instruct us in his ways,  
and we may walk in his paths.”  
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and impose terms on many peoples.  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation shall not raise the sword against another,  
nor shall they train for war again.  
O house of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD!  
The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 122

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R7. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
    I rejoiced because they said to me,  
   “We will go up to the house of the LORD.”
And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. R\footnote{R}

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD. R\footnote{R}

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David. R\footnote{R}

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings. R\footnote{R}

Because of my brothers and friends I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I will pray for your good. R\footnote{R}

\textbf{READING II (Romans 13:11-14)}

\textbf{A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans}
\textit{Our salvation is nearer.}

\textbf{Brothers and sisters:}

You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;
the night is advanced, the day is at hand.
Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy.
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

The word of the Lord. \textbf{All:} Thanks be to God.
Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44)

Alleluia (See Psalm 85:8)

V. Alleluia, alleluia. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Show us Lord, your love;
   and grant us your salvation. R.

+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Stay awake, that you may be prepared!

Jesus said to his disciples:
“As it was in the days of Noah,
   so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
In those days before the flood,
   they were eating and drinking,
   marrying and giving in marriage,
   up to the day that Noah entered the ark.
They did not know until the flood came and carried
   them all away.
So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.
Two men will be out in the field;
   one will be taken, and one will be left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill;
   one will be taken, and one will be left.
Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.
Be sure of this: if the master of the house
   had known the hour of night when the thief was
      coming,
   he would have stayed awake
   and not let his house be broken into.
So too, you also must be prepared,
   for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will
      come.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
PRAYER after Communion
May the Sacrament we have received,
O Lord our God,
heal in us the wounds of that fault
from which in a singular way
you preserved Blessed Mary in her Immaculate Conception.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Reflection on the Gospel
Today we learn about John the Baptist’s expectations for Jesus. John was likely offended at Jesus’ behavior and preaching because it was not what he had foretold. The disconnect was so great that John wondered if there was someone else who was to come. This is a good reminder for us to temper our expectations of others. We are ultimately responsible for ourselves, not anyone else. We can let God raise up in others the special gifts, talents, and abilities given to them. We would do well to abandon any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.

—Living Liturgy™, Third Sunday of Advent 2019

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Philippians 4:4-5)
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

COLLECT
O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 7) (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

God himself will come to save us.

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

**Responsorial Psalm 146**

Lord, come and save us;  Lord, come and save us.

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R\textsuperscript{7}. (See Isaiah 35:4) Lord, come and save us. or: R\textsuperscript{7}. Alleluia.

The Lord God keeps faith forever,  
securities justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets captives free. R\textsuperscript{7}.

The Lord gives sight to the blind;  
the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.  
The Lord loves the just;  
the Lord protects strangers. R\textsuperscript{7}.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The Lord shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations. R\textsuperscript{7}.

**Reading II** (James 5:7-10)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Be patient, brothers and sisters,  
until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,  
being patient with it  
until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You too must be patient.  
Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,  
that you may not be judged.  
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.  
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,  
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (Matthew 11:2-11)


v. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor. R.

✝ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,  
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,  
“Are you the one who is to come,  
or should we look for another?”

Jesus said to them in reply,  
“Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised,  
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,  
“What did you go out to the desert to see?
A reed swayed by the wind?
Then what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer over the Offerings**
May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

**Communion Antiphon (Cf. Isaiah 35:4)**
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Prayer after Communion**
We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2020

Reflection on the Gospel
The parable in today’s gospel may cause us to ask, What kind of seed are we? Were we scattered on rocky soil or fertile? Will we bear fruit? If so, how much? Seed scattered on the ground does not seem to leave much room for free will. The seed scattered on rocks can scarcely move itself to the fertile soil. What about the seed that finds itself in fertile soil? Is there a responsibility to grow and produce fruit? Today, we pray for the grace to grow where we find ourselves and to produce as much fruit as possible.

—Living Liturgy™, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Cf. Psalm 17[16]:15)
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 honor.
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. All: Amen.

READING I (L 103-A) (Isaiah 55:10-11)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the LORD:
Just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 65

The seed that falls on good ground will
yield a fruitful harvest.

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

Rx. (Luke 8:8) The seed that falls on good ground will
yield a fruitful harvest.
You have visited the land and watered it;
greatly have you enriched it.
God’s watercourses are filled;
you have prepared the grain. R7.

Thus have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows,
breaking up its clods,
softening it with showers,
blessing its yield. R7.

You have crowned the year with your bounty,
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;
the untilled meadows overflow with it,
and rejoicing clothes the hills. R7.

The fields are garmented with flocks
and the valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy. R7.

READING II (Romans 8:18-23)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Creation awaits the revelation of the children of God.

Brothers and sisters:
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains
even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves  
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:1-23) or Shorter Form [ ]  
(Matthew 13:1-9)

ALLELUIA

_VC. Alleluia, alleluia. _R. Alleluia, alleluia.

_VC. The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. _R.  
All who come to him will have life forever.  

_A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

A sower went out to sow.

[On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down  
by the sea.  
Such large crowds gathered around him  
that he got into a boat and sat down,  
and the whole crowd stood along the shore.  
And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:  
“A sower went out to sow.  
And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,  
and birds came and ate it up.  
Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.  
It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep,  
and when the sun rose it was scorched,  
and it withered for lack of roots.  
Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up  
and choked it.  
But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit,  
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.  
Whoever has ears ought to hear.”]

The disciples approached him and said,  
“Why do you speak to them in parables?”  
He said to them in reply,  
“Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom  
of heaven
has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.

To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich;
from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.

Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:
You shall indeed hear but not understand,
you shall indeed look but never see.
Gross is the heart of this people,
they will hardly hear with their ears,
they have closed their eyes,
lest they see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their hearts and be converted,
and I heal them.

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see,
and your ears, because they hear.

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Hear then the parable of the sower.
The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it,
and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.
The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy.
But he has no root and lasts only for a time.
When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: 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. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 84[83]:4-5)
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:

(John 6:57)
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. All: Amen.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Cf. Isaiah 40:5)
The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigor from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen.

The Nativity of the Lord

AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT

December 25, 2019

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Psalm 2:7)
The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

Or:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

COLLECT
O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.
Reading I (L 14) (Isaiah 9:1-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
A son is given us.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
and the rod of their taskmaster
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for flames.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
from David’s throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
by judgment and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!
The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM 96

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name. R7.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. R7.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult. R7.

They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy. R7.

READING II (Titus 2:11-14)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

The grace of God has appeared to all.

Beloved:
The grace of God has appeared, saving all
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,
as we await the blessed hope,
the appearance of the glory of our great God
and savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,
eager to do what is good.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel (Luke 2:1-14)
Alleluia (Luke 2:10-11)
℣. I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
   today a Savior is born for us,
   Christ the Lord. ℑ.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Today a Savior has been born for you.
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
   that the whole world should be enrolled.
This was the first enrollment,
   when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.
And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of
   Nazareth
to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,
because he was of the house and family of David,
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with
child.
While they were there,
   the time came for her to have her child,
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a
   manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.
Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields
and keeping the night watch over their flock.
The angel of the Lord appeared to them  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,  
and they were struck with great fear.  
The angel said to them,  
“Do not be afraid;  
for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy  
that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David  
a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.  
And this will be a sign for you:  
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and lying in a manger.”  
And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host  
with the angel,  
praising God and saying:  
“Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings
May the oblation of this day’s feast  
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,  
in whom our nature is united to you.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (John 1:14)  
The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Prayer after Communion
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
that we, who are gladdened by participation  
in the feast of our Redeemer’s Nativity,  
may through an honorable way of life become worthy of union with  
him.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen.
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

December 29, 2019

Reflection on the Gospel
With today’s gospel we are reminded that Joseph, Mary, and the child Jesus were political refugees. They feared for their lives, as Herod had massacred the innocents. The Holy Family found safety and refuge in a foreign country. Though Jesus was Emmanuel, danger was present and must have seemed a specter shadowing the Holy Family. We know that Jesus will ultimately lose his life at the hands of the state. Is it any wonder that the gospel message was so popular with the outcast and marginalized? Let us, as disciples, identify with the outcast, marginalized, and afflicted, for that is how the Holy Family lived.

—Living Liturgy™, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 2019

Entrance Antiphon (Isaiah 8:5)
A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Collect
Almighty ever-living God, who in the Nativity of your Son established the beginning and fulfillment of all religion, grant, we pray, that we may be numbered among those who belong to him, in whom is the fullness of human salvation. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.
Reading I (L 17) (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14)

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.

God sets a father in honor over his children;
   a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons.
Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
   and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard;
   he stores up riches who reveres his mother.
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,
   and, when he prays, is heard.
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
   he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.
My son, take care of your father when he is old;
   grieve him not as long as he lives.
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;
   revile him not all the days of his life;
kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
   firmly planted against the debt of your sins
—a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 128

Blessed are those, blessed are those who
fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R7. (See 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored. R7.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. R7.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. R7.

Reading II (Colossians 3:12-21) or Shorter Form []
(Colossians 3:12-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Family life in the Lord.

[Brothers and sisters:]
Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.
And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.
And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.]

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them.
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.
Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)
ALLELUIA (Colossians 3:15a, 16a)

 vv. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. R7.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled,

Out of Egypt I called my son.
When Herod had died, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream
to Joseph in Egypt and said,
“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the
land of Israel,
for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”
He rose, took the child and his mother,
and went to the land of Israel.
But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea
in place of his father Herod,
he was afraid to go back there.
And because he had been warned in a dream,
he departed for the region of Galilee.
He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,
so that what had been spoken through the prophets
might be fulfilled,
He shall be called a Nazorean.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings
We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Baruch 3:38)
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion
Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.
The Epiphany of the Lord

AT THE VIGIL MASS

January 4, 2020

This Mass is used on the evening of the day before the Solemnity, either before or after First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Epiphany.

Reflection on the Gospel
The magi in today’s gospel represent all those who are not part of the “in” crowd. These foreigners come to worship Jesus before anyone else does. They recognize in the signs of nature that something significant has happened, and they seek it out. Those who should know their own Scriptures missed something that Zoroastrian priests perceived. We ask ourselves, too, what we might miss when signs are right in front of our eyes. What is God doing in our midst? Is it something that others—foreigners, those not part of the “in” crowd—notice, but it escapes our attention? May we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

—Living Liturgy™, The Epiphany of the Lord 2020

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Baruch 5:5)
Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Collect
May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, we pray, shed its light upon our hearts, that we may pass through the shadows of this world and reach the brightness of our eternal home. 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. All: Amen.

(Note readings are those of the day.)
Prayer over the Offerings
Accept we pray, O Lord, our offerings, in honor of the appearing of your Only Begotten Son and the first fruits of the nations, that to you praise may be rendered and eternal salvation be ours. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Revelation 21:23)
The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

Prayer after Communion
Renewed by sacred nourishment, we implore your mercy, O Lord, that the star of your justice may shine always bright in our minds and that our true treasure may ever consist in our confession of you. Through Christ our Lord. All. Amen.

January 5

AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Malachi 3:1; 1 Chronicles 29:12)
Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Collect
O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 20) (Isaiah 60:1-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.
Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD. The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 72

Lord, ev’ry nation on earth will adore you.

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R7. (See 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king’s son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. R7. (continued)
Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. \textit{R7.}
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him. \textit{R7.}
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save. \textit{R7.}

\textbf{Reading II (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6)}

\textit{A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians}
\textit{Now it has been revealed that the Gentiles are coheirs of the promise.}
Brothers and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace
that was given to me for your benefit,
namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.
It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
The word of the Lord. \textbf{All}: Thanks be to God.

\textbf{Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12)}

\textbf{Alleluia (Matthew 2:2)}
\textit{V}. Alleluia, alleluia. \textit{R7. Alleluia, alleluia.}
\textit{V}. We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage. \textit{R7.}
\textbf{A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew}
\textbf{All}: Glory to you, O Lord.
\textit{We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.}
When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.”
When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.
Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:
\[
\text{And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,}
\text{are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;}
\text{since from you shall come a ruler,}
\text{who is to shepherd my people Israel.}
\]
Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
“Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage.”
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
January 5

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings
Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Matthew 2:2)
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Prayer after Communion
Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.
Reflection on the Gospel

Baptism is an ancient practice with some roots in the Essene community and in the ministry of John. Many of those ancient Jewish people who felt a need to repent of sin and experience forgiveness were baptized by John in the Jordan. How strange then that Jesus, too, went to John to be baptized. Each evangelist handles the matter in a slightly different way, with the Gospel of John skipping the baptism altogether, so that John simply testifies to Jesus as the Lamb of God! On this feast of the baptism, let us recall the meaning of our own baptism and live lives worthy of that call.

—Living Liturgy™, The Baptism of the Lord 2020

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Matthew 3:16-17)

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.
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. All: Amen.
Or:

O God, whose Only Begotten Son has appeared in our very flesh, grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed through him whom we recognize as outwardly like ourselves. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.

READING I (L 21) (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Behold my servant with whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.
I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm 29

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R\(^7\). (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the Lord, you sons of God,
give to the Lord glory and praise,
give to the Lord the glory due his name;
adore the Lord in holy attire. R\(^7\).

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
the Lord, over vast waters.
The voice of the Lord is mighty;
the voice of the Lord is majestic. R\(^7\).

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”
The Lord is enthroned above the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as king forever. R\(^7\).

Reading II (Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered
in the house of Cornelius, saying:
“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts
uprightly
is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is
Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)

Alleluia (See Mark 9:7)

♀ Alleluia, alleluia. ℣ Alleluia, alleluia.
♀ The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, listen to him. ℣.

‡ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God coming upon him.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Reflection on the Gospel

Jesus called the disciples near the beginning of his ministry. And he called them two by two, the brothers Simon and Andrew, and James and John. These were fishermen, in some ways the ancient equivalent of today’s highly skilled blue-collar workers. They worked with their hands, as even the “mending their nets” indicates. At the invitation of Jesus, they all leave behind their way of life to follow him. Modern calls to discipleship are scarcely so dramatic. Even so, we are called to put aside the tedious, monotonous, quotidian activities that mark our lives and enter into a new relationship with Christ.

—Living Liturgy™, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 96[95]:1, 6)

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendor,
strength and honor in his holy place.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 67-A) (Isaiah 8:23—9:3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

In Galilee of the Gentiles, the people have seen a great light.

First the LORD degraded the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali;
but in the end he has glorified the seaward road, 
the land west of the Jordan, 
the District of the Gentiles.

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness: 
for there is no gloom where but now there was 
distress.
The people who walked in darkness 
have seen a great light; 
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has 
shone.
You have brought them abundant joy 
and great rejoicing, 
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, 
as people make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them, 
the pole on their shoulder, 
and the rod of their taskmaster 
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 27**

The Lord is my light, my light and my sal - va - tion.

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

R. (1a) **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; 
whom should I fear? 
The Lord is my life’s refuge; 
of whom should I be afraid? R.

One thing I ask of the Lord; 
this I seek:

(continued)
to dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple. R.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. R.

READING II (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

That all of you may agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you.

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you agree in what you say,
and that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters,
by Chloe’s people, that there are rivalries among you.

I mean that each of you is saying,
“I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,”
or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.”

Is Christ divided?
Was Paul crucified for you?
Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel,
and not with the wisdom of human eloquence,
so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL (Matthew 4:12-23) or Shorter Form [ ]
(Matthew 4:12-17)

ALLELUIA (See Matthew 4:23)

V. Alleluia, alleluia. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. R.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to Capernaum, so that what had been said through Isaiah might be fulfilled.

[When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”]

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.
He said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
At once they left their nets and followed him.
He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.
He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.
He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer over the Offerings**
Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. **All:** *Amen.*

**Communion Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 34[33]:6)**
Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Or:

*(John 8:12)*
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**Prayer after Communion**
Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord. **All:** *Amen.*
Reflection on the Gospel

It should go without saying that women figure prominently in some of the most remembered stories about Jesus, including his birth, death, and resurrection. And today we have the story of his presentation, accompanied by the presence of Simeon and Anna, as women speak the powerful words of God just as men do. When given the opportunity, let us showcase this too often neglected aspect of our rich faith. And in our own world, in our own day and age, let’s listen attentively to the prophetesses in our own midst. Luke gives equal voice to the women. We would do well to follow his example.

—Living Liturgy™, The Presentation of the Lord 2020

BLESSING OF CANDLES AND PROCESSION

FIRST FORM: PROCESSION
(In a chapel or other suitable place outside the church)

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord.
Today is the blessed day
when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph.
Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law,
but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people.
Prompted by the Holy Spirit,
Simeon and Anna came to the Temple.
Enlightened by the same Spirit,
they recognized the Lord
and confessed him with exultation.
So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit,
proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ.
There we shall find him
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
until he comes again, revealed in glory.
Let us pray.

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people’s prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Or:

O God, true light, who create light eternal, spreading it far and wide, pour, we pray, into the hearts of the faithful the brilliance of perpetual light, so that all who are brightened in your holy temple by the splendor of these candles may happily reach the light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Deacon: Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.

or:

Let us go forth in peace.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

SECOND FORM: SOLEMN ENTRANCE  (Assemble in the church)

MASS
Feast (W). Gloria.

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 48[47]:10-11)
Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Collect
Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. 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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 524) (Malachi 3:1-4)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi

There will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek.

Thus says the Lord God:
Lo, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me;
And suddenly there will come to the temple
the Lord whom you seek,
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.
Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
But who will endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears?
For he is like the refiner’s fire,
or like the fuller’s lye.
He will sit refining and purifying silver,
and he will purify the sons of Levi,
Refining them like gold or like silver
that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord.
Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem
will please the Lord,
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 24

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

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Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10

**Reading I**

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!
Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in! 

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle. 

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in! 

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory. 

**Reading II (Hebrews 2:14-18)**

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way.

Since the children share in blood and flesh,

Jesus likewise shared in them,
that through death he might destroy the one
who has the power of death, that is, the Devil,
and free those who through fear of death
had been subject to slavery all their life.

Surely he did not help angels
but rather the descendants of Abraham;
therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every way,
that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
before God
to expiate the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested through what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL (Luke 2:22-40) or Shorter Form [ ] (Luke 2:22-32)
ALLELUIA (Luke 2:32)

∀. Alleluia, alleluia. Ἡ. Alleluia, alleluia.

∀. A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel. Ἡ.

✝ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

My eyes have seen your salvation.

[When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples:
The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings
May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen.
Communion Antiphon (Luke 2:30-31)
My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

Prayer after Communion
By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon’s expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 9, 2020

Reflection on the Gospel
The gospel opens with the words “Jesus said to his disciples,” thus giving us not only an account of something two thousand years ago but something that is addressed to us today. There are two “you are” statements that cannot be missed. The metaphors are simple but sublime: “salt” and “light.” Jesus is telling his disciples as he tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. What an impressive moniker! Are we up to it? Whether or not we deem the terms appropriate appellations, we are given those names nonetheless.

—Living Liturgy™, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

Entrance Antiphon (Psalm 95[94]:6-7)
O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.
Collect
Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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. All: Amen.

Reading I (L 73) (Isaiah 58:7-10)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
Your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry, 
shelter the oppressed and the homeless; 
clothe the naked when you see them, 
and do not turn your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, 
and your wound shall quickly be healed; 
your vindication shall go before you, 
and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, 
you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!
If you remove from your midst 
oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; 
if you bestow your bread on the hungry 
and satisfy the afflicted; 
then light shall rise for you in the darkness, 
and the gloom shall become for you like midday.
The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 112

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Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**R7. (4a)** The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

*or: R7. Alleluia.*

Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just.
Well for the man who is gracious and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice. **R7.**

He shall never be moved;
the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.
An evil report he shall not fear;
his heart is firm, trusting in the **LORD.** **R7.**

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear.
Lavishly he gives to the poor;
his justice shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory. **R7.**

**Reading II (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

*I have announced to you the mystery of Christ crucified.*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling,
and my message and my proclamation
were not with persuasive words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of Spirit and power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL (Matthew 5:13-16)

Alleluia (John 8:12)

\(\checkmark\). Alleluia, alleluia. \(\checkmark\). Alleluia, alleluia.

\(\checkmark\). I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. \(\checkmark\).

\(\checkmark\) A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 107[106]:8-9)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.
Or:

(Matthew 5:5-6)
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

**Prayer after Communion**
O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world. Through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*February 16, 2020*

**Reflection on the Gospel**

To those who want to be right with God but wonder what is the minimum required to achieve that relationship, Jesus has an answer. We need to go above and beyond; merely fulfilling the minimum is not enough. When Jesus responds in this way, we may crave a return to the minimum! The standard Jesus sets may seem impossible to realize. When we desire a relationship with Christ for its own sake, and not simply because we’ve been somehow coerced, a life of faith flows naturally. We no longer count the minimum but instead live in a relationship of trust, fidelity, and love.

—Living Liturgy™, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

**Entrance Antiphon** (Cf. Psalm 31[30]:3-4)

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.
COLLECT
O God, who teach us that you abide
in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
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. All: Amen.

READING I (L 76-A) (Sirach 15:15-20)
A reading from the Book of Sirach

No one does he command to act unjustly.

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you;
if you trust in God, you too shall live;
he has set before you fire and water;
to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.
Before man are life and death, good and evil,
whichever he chooses shall be given him.
Immense is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power, and all-seeing.
The eyes of God are on those who fear him;
he understands man's every deed.
No one does he command to act unjustly,
to none does he give license to sin.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 119

R7. (1b) Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!
Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart. R7.

You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.
Oh, that I might be firm in the ways of keeping your statutes! R7.

Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words.
Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. R7.

Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them.
Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart. R7.

**Reading II (1 Corinthians 2:6-10)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

*God predestined wisdom before the ages for our glory.*

Brothers and sisters:
We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written:

*What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,*
*and what has not entered the human heart,*
*what God has prepared for those who love him,*
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL (Matthew 5:17-37) or Shorter Form [ ]
(Matthew 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37)
ALLELUIA (See Matthew 11:25)

V. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. R/.

✝ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

So it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you.

[Jesus said to his disciples:]

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

[I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.

But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;]

and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raqia,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin;
and whoever says, ‘You fool,’
will be liable to fiery Gehenna.
Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar,
and there recall that your brother
has anything against you,
leave your gift there at the altar,
go first and be reconciled with your brother,
and then come and offer your gift.
Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court.
Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge,
and the judge will hand you over to the guard,
and you will be thrown into prison.
Amen, I say to you,
you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

[“You have heard that it was said,
You shall not commit adultery.
But I say to you,
everyone who looks at a woman with lust
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.]"
If your right eye causes you to sin,
tear it out and throw it away.
It is better for you to lose one of your members
than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna.
And if your right hand causes you to sin,
cut it off and throw it away.
It is better for you to lose one of your members
than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

“It was also said,
Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.
But I say to you,
whoever divorces his wife—unless the marriage is unlawful—
causes her to commit adultery,
and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

[“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,

Do not take a false oath,

but make good to the Lord all that you vow.

But I say to you, do not swear at all;]

not by heaven, for it is God’s throne;

nor by the earth, for it is his footstool;

nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Do not swear by your head,

for you cannot make a single hair white or black.

[Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’

Anything more is from the evil one.”]

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings
May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse and renew us
and may it become for those who do your will
the source of eternal reward.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 78[77]:29-30)
They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Or:

(John 3:16)
God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.

Prayer after Communion
Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may always long
for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.