

**Communion Antiphon**

Cf. Mt 16: 16, 18

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me. Never let me be separated from you. From the malicious enemy, defend me. At the hour of death, call me; and bid me come to you. That with your saints I may praise you forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

O God, who at our celebration of the feast day of the blessed Apostle Peter have nourished us by communion in the Body and Blood of Christ, grant, we pray, that this redeeming exchange may be for us a Sacrament of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer over the People**

Enlighten the minds of your people, Lord, we pray, with the light of your glory, that they may see what must be done and have the strength to do what is right. Through Christ our Lord.

**Saint Peter's Chair - Feast**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Lk 22: 32

The Lord says to Simon Peter:  
I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and, once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

**The Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and on earth peace to people of good will.**  
We praise you, we bless you,  
**we adore you, we glorify you,**  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
**Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
**Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**  
you take away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us;**  
you take away the sins of the world,  
**receive our prayer;**  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
**you alone are the Lord,**  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith. 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.

**First reading**

1 Peter 5:1-4

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.  
The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

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

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

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

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.

***The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want***

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

***The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want***

.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.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Mt16:18

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
You are Peter,  
and on this rock I will build my Church.  
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out  
against it.

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

## Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hail Mary**, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Accept with favour, O Lord, we pray,  
the prayers and offerings of your Church,  
that, with Saint Peter as her shepherd,  
she may come to an eternal inheritance,  
for it is through his teaching  
that she holds the faith in its integrity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot  
at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were  
already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never  
permit me to be separated from you.

**Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**  
**2**

**Cf. Ps 4:**

When I called, the God of justice gave me answer;  
from anguish you released me;  
have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer!

Tuesday 23 February 2021

**Tuesday of the 1st week of Lent**

with a commemoration of Saint Polycarp, Bishop,  
Martyr

**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of  
Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O  
good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me.  
Never let me be separated from you. From the  
malicious enemy, defend me. At the hour of death, call  
me; and bid me come to you. That with your saints I  
may praise you forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant us through these mysteries, Lord,  
that by moderating earthly desires  
we may learn to love the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer over the People**

May your faithful be strengthened,  
O God, by your blessing:  
in grief, may you be their consolation,  
in tribulation, their power to endure,  
and in peril, their protection.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 89: 1-2**

O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation;  
from age to age, you are.

**Penitential Act:**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

**Collect**

God of all creation,  
who were pleased to give the Bishop Saint Polycarp  
a place in the company of the Martyrs,  
grant, through his intercession,  
that, sharing with him in the chalice of Christ,  
we may rise through the Holy Spirit to eternal life.  
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.

**First reading**  
11

**Isaiah 55:10-**

**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.

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

***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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt4:4**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 6:7-15**

**The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to **N.**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In your prayers do not babble as the pagans do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard. Do not be like them; your Father knows what you need before you ask him. So you should pray like this:

'Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those  
who are in debt to us.

And do not put us to the test,  
but save us from the evil one.

'Yes, if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hail Mary**, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive, O Creator, almighty God,  
what we bring from your bountiful goodness,  
and be pleased to transform  
this temporal sustenance you have given us,  
that it may bring us eternal life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

O God, who never cease to nourish us by your  
Sacrament,  
grant that the refreshment you give us through it  
may bring us unending life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer over the People

Watch over your people, Lord,  
and in your kindness cleanse them from all sins,  
for if evil has no dominion over them,  
no trial can do them harm.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday 24 February 2021

## Wednesday of the 1st week of Lent

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24: 6, 2,

22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,  
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.  
Let not our enemies exult over us.  
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

### Penitential Act:

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

### Collect

Look kindly, Lord, we pray,  
on the devotion of your people,  
that those who by self-denial are restrained in body  
may by the fruit of good works be renewed in mind.  
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.

### First reading

Jonah 3:1-

10

### A reading from the prophet Jonah.

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**

***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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**Ezk33:11**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
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.  
**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

### Gospel

**Luke 11:29-32**

**The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to **N.**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The crowds got even bigger, and Jesus addressed them:

'This is a wicked generation; it is asking for a sign. The only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. On Judgement day the Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here. On Judgement day the men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation and condemn it, because when Jonah preached they repented; and there is something greater than Jonah here.'

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

**Hail Mary**, full of grace.  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.

### Prayer over the Offerings

We offer to you, O Lord,  
what you have given to be dedicated to your name,  
that, just as for our benefit you make these gifts a  
Sacrament,  
so you may let them become for us an eternal remedy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.  
**Amen.**

### Communion Antiphon

**Cf. Ps 5: 12**

All who take refuge in you shall be glad, O Lord,  
and ever cry out their joy, and you shall dwell among  
them.

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

**Amen.**

### Communion Antiphon

Mt 7:

8

Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds;  
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

### Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me. Never let me be separated from you. From the malicious enemy, defend me. At the hour of death, call me; and bid me come to you. That with your saints I may praise you forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

We pray, O Lord our God,  
that, as you have given these most sacred mysteries  
to be the safeguard of our salvation,  
so you may make them a healing remedy for us,  
both now and in time to come.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### Prayer over the People

May the mercy they have hoped for, O Lord,  
come to those who make supplication to you,  
and may the riches of heaven be given them,  
that they may know what it is right to ask  
and receive what they have sought.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### Thursday of the 1st week of Lent

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 5: 2-

3

To my words give ear, O Lord; give heed to my sighs.  
Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

### Penitential Act:

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

### Collect

Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord,  
a spirit of always pondering on what is right  
and of hastening to carry it out,  
and, since without you we cannot exist,  
may we be enabled to live according to your will.  
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.

**First reading**  
**4:17**

**Esther**

**A reading from the book of Esther.**

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**

***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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**13**

**Joel2:12-**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –  
come back to me with all your heart,  
for I am all tenderness and compassion.

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 7:7-12**

**The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to **N.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. Is there a man among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

‘So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hail Mary**, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Be merciful, O Lord, to those who approach you in  
supplication,

and, accepting the oblations and prayers of your  
people,

turn the hearts of us all towards you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Friday of the 1st week of Lent**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept the sacrificial offerings, O Lord,  
by which, in your power and kindness,  
you willed us to be reconciled to yourself  
and our salvation to be restored.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.  
**Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Ez 33: 11**

As I live, says the Lord,  
I do not desire the death of the sinner,  
but rather that he turn back and live.

**Prayer after Communion**

May the holy refreshment of your Sacrament  
restore us anew, O Lord,  
and, cleansing us of old ways,  
take us up into the mystery of salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of  
Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O  
good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me.  
Never let me be separated from you. From the  
malicious enemy, defend me. At the hour of death, call  
me; and bid me come to you. That with your saints I  
may praise you forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer over the People**

Look with favour on your people, O Lord,  
that what their observance outwardly declares  
it may inwardly bring about.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Entrance Antiphon**  
**18**

**Cf. Ps 24: 17-**

Set me free from my distress, O Lord.  
See my lowliness and suffering,  
and take away all my sins.

**Penitential Act:**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

**Collect**

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, we pray,  
may be so conformed to the paschal observances,  
that the bodily discipline now solemnly begun  
may bear fruit in the souls of all.  
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.

**First reading**  
**28**

**Ezekiel 18:21-**

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.**

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 129(130)**

***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.

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

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

But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

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

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.)

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

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**cf. Amos 5:14**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.  
**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:20-26**

**The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to **N.**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hail Mary**, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.