

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.*

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 127

RESPONSE: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers,
about "times and seasons", since you know well that the Day of
the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people
are saying, "How quiet and peaceful it is" that the worst suddenly
happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant
woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day
to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons
of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we
should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide
awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord,*

*keep faithful, and I will give you
the crown of life.
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

>Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of
heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his
servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave
five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to
his ability. Then he set out.< The man who had received the five
talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more.
The man who had received two made two more in the same way.
But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in
the ground and hid his master's money. >Now a long time after,
the master of those servants came back and went through his
accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents
came forward bringing five more. 'Sir,' he said, 'you entrusted me
with five talents; here are five more that I have made.' His master
said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown
you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater;
come and join in your master's happiness.'< Next the man with
two talents came forward. 'Sir,' he said, 'you entrusted me with
two talents; here are two more that I have made.' His master said
to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you
can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come
and join in your master's happiness.' Last came forward the man
who had the one talent. 'Sir,' said he, 'I had heard you were a hard
man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you
have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your
talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.' But
his master answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! So you
knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have
not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money
with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my
capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it
to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will
be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the
man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for
this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where
there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.*

Or

*Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you will receive,
and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**