

The Collect

God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee: mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading is taken from the Book of Sirach, beginning to read in chapter 27 at the 30th verse

27 : 30 Anger and wrath, these also are abominations, and the sinful man will possess them.

28 : 1 He that takes vengeance will suffer vengeance from the Lord, and he will firmly establish his sins.

2 Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

3 Does a man harbour anger against another, and yet seek for healing from the Lord?

4 Does he have no mercy toward a man like himself, and yet pray for his own sins?

5 If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make expiation for his sins?

6 Remember the end of your life, and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death, and be true to the commandments.

7 Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook ignorance.

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

The New Testament Reading is taken from the Epistle to the Ephesians, beginning to read in Chapter 4 at the 25th verse.

4:25 Therefore, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.

29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice,

32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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

Psalm appointed 85:1-6

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 “You have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.’

22 But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to the hell of fire.

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Postcommunion Collect

O Lord, who hast vouchsafed to satisfy us with these thy gifts: grant we beseech thee; that the same may ever cleanse us by their operation, and defend us by their succour. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.