

The Collect

Almighty God, who has knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning to read in Chapter 66 at the 20th verse.

The Lord says:

66:20 And they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their cereal offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord.

21 And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

22 “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before me, says the Lord; so shall your descendants and your name remain.

23 From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the Lord.

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

The New Testament reading is taken from Revelation, beginning to read in Chapter 7 at the 1st verse.

7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

2 Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,

3 saying,

“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”

4 And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel,

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?”

14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

And he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night within his temple;
and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water;
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

Psalm appointed 149

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Postcommunion Collect
Grant, O Lord, we pray thee: that thy faithful people may evermore rejoice in the veneration of all thy Saints; and be defended by their perpetual intercession. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who livest and reignest with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.