

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.*

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under
heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
"Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness".
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 125

RESPONSE: *What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: "What marvels
the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how
you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first
heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who
began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day
of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving
you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each
other may increase more and more and never stop improving your
knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always
recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and
blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will
reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for
the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate
was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother
Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias
tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of
the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord;
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.