

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.  
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** Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM** Psalm 95

**RESPONSE:** *Give the Lord glory and power.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

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

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika  
which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you  
grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you  
all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you  
have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered  
through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been  
chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it  
came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy  
Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your word is truth, O Lord,  
consecrate us in the truth.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
You will shine in the world like bright stars  
because you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to  
trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him,  
together with the Herodians, to say, "Master, we know that you are  
an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and  
that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means  
nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay  
taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus was aware of their malice and  
replied, "You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me  
see the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a denarius,  
and he said, "Whose head is this? Whose name?" "Caesar's,"  
they replied. He then said to them, "Very well, give back to Caesar  
what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, Lord, we pray,  
a sincere respect for your gifts,  
that, through the purifying action of your grace,  
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord  
are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.*

Or

*The Son of Man has come  
to give his life as a ransom for many.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*