

**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.**