

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!*

**COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God,  
by whose gift your faithful offer you  
right and praiseworthy service,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may hasten without stumbling  
to receive the things you have promised.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.  
Moses said to the people: "If you fear the Lord your God all the  
days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments  
which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and  
your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will  
make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God  
of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk  
and honey flow.

"Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love  
the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all  
your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on  
your heart."

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM** Psalm 17

**RESPONSE:** *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.  
There used to be a great number of priests under the former  
covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but  
this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose  
his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly  
certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to  
God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent  
and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised  
up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices  
every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then  
for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all

by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men  
subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after  
the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.  
One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him,  
"Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied,  
"This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord,  
and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with  
all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The  
second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There  
is no commandment greater than these." The scribe said to  
him, "Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he  
is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with  
all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour  
as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or  
sacrifice." Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, "You  
are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared  
to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,  
become for you a pure oblation,  
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.*

Or

*Just as the living Father sent me  
and I have life because of the Father,  
so whoever feeds on me  
shall have life because of me, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the working of your power, O Lord,  
increase in us, we pray,  
so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments,  
we may be prepared by your gift  
for receiving what they promise.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*