ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants
and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,
they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.
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 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

There is not any God besides you, whose care is for all,
to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly.
For your strength is the source of righteousness,
and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.
For you show your strength
when men doubt the completeness of your power,
and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.
You are sovereign in strength but you judge with mildness,
and with great forbearance you govern us;
for you have power to act whenever you choose.
Through such works you have taught your people
that the one who is righteous must be kind,
and you have filled your sons with good hope,
because you give repentance for sins.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 86(85):5-6. 9-10. 15-16a. R. 5a

R: ***O Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,
and attend to my voice in supplication. **R.**

2. All the nations you have made shall come;
they will bow down before you, O Lord,
and glorify your name,
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **R.**

3. You, O God, are compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abundant in mercy and fidelity;
turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Matthew 11:25

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
(for shorter form read between > <)

>At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"' <

He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.'

All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.'

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice
brought to completion varied offerings of the law,
accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants
and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel,
so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty
may benefit the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

Or

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me,
I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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