

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.*

**COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God,  
graciously keep from us all adversity,  
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,  
we may pursue in freedom of heart  
the things that are yours.  
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** 2 Maccabees 7:1-2. 9-14

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

There were seven brothers who were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman for the others, said, "What are you trying to find out from us? We are prepared to die rather than break the Law of our ancestors."

With his last breath the second brother exclaimed, "Inhuman fiend, you may discharge us from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up, since it is for his laws that we die, to live again for ever."

After him, they amused themselves with the third, who on being asked for his tongue promptly thrust it out and boldly held out his hands, with these honourable words, "It was heaven that gave me these limbs; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again." The king and his attendants were astounded at the young man's courage and his utter indifference to suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the fourth to the same savage torture. When he neared his end he cried, "Ours is the better choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet relying on God's promise that we shall be raised up by him; whereas for you there can be no resurrection, no new life."

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

**PSALM** Psalm 16

**RESPONSE:** *I shall be filled, when I awake,  
with the sight of your glory, O Lord.*

1. Lord, hear a cause that is just,  
pay heed to my cry.  
Turn your ear to my prayer:  
no deceit is on my lips. **R.**
2. I kept my feet firmly in your paths;  
there was no faltering in my steps.  
I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.  
Turn your ear to me; hear my words. **R.**
3. Guard me as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
As for me, in my justice I shall see your face  
and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5

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

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted

and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Stay awake, praying at all times  
for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of  
Man.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus Christ is the First-born from the dead;  
to him be glory and power for ever and ever.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 20:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put this\* question to him, <

"Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?"

> Jesus replied, "The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive." <

\* In the shorter form, for "this" read "a".

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,  
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,  
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son,  
we may honour it with loving devotion.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,  
near restful waters he leads me.*

Or

*The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of  
bread.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,  
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,  
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,  
the grace of integrity may endure  
in those your heavenly power has entered.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*