

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
“Doom for the shepherds who allow the
flock of my pasture to be destroyed and
scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This,
therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel
says about the shepherds in charge of my
people: You have let my flock be scattered
and go wandering and have not taken care
of them. Right, I will take care of you for
your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks!
But the remnant of my flock I myself will
gather from all the countries where I have
dispersed them, and will bring them back
to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and
increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds
to look after them and pasture them; no fear,
no terror for them any more; not one shall be
lost - it is the Lord who speaks!
“See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who
speaks -
when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,
who will reign as true king and be wise,
practising honesty and integrity in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel dwell in confidence.
And this is the name he will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.”
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. 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,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far
apart from us have been brought very close,
by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace
between us, and has made the two into one
and broken down the barrier which used to
keep them apart, actually destroying in his
own person the hostility caused by the rules
and decrees of the Law. This was to create
one single New Man in himself out of the two
of them and by restoring peace through the
cross, to unite them both in a single Body
and reconcile them with God. In his own
person he killed the hostility. Later he came
to bring the good news of peace, peace to
you who were far away and peace to those
who were near at hand. Through him, both of
us have in the one Spirit our way to come to
the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The sheep that belong to me listen to my
voice
says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him
all they had done and taught. Then he said
to them, “You must come away to some
lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a
while”; for there were so many coming and
going that the apostles had no time even to
eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely
place where they could be by themselves.
But people saw them going, and many could
guess where; and from every town they all
hurried to the place on foot and reached it

before them. So as he stepped ashore he
saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them
because they were like sheep without a
shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at
some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

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.

THE RETURN OF THE TWELVE

(MARK 6:30-34)



Painting of Jesus and his disciples by D. Nolet (1645) in St Jacob's Church, Bruges

The disciples return from their missionary work today and they are full of enthusiasm as they tell Jesus all they have done and taught.

Given their need for rest and food, Jesus suggests that they come away to a lonely place where they can recuperate and reflect on their time visiting the villages around Galilee. Some scripture scholars indicate that Mark's Gospel is unafraid to highlight the weaknesses and failings of the disciples. This is one of those times where the disciples seem to suggest that their teaching and their work has all taken place under their own authority and not the authority of Jesus. "They told him all that they had done and taught." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't chastise them but instead suggests a moment of reflection in an isolated place to reiterate the point that "they had gone on mission equipped with Jesus' authority, not their own" (Ciaran O' Callaghan CSsR). However, they don't reach their destination. Jesus will have to speak to them later. A crowd of people recognise Jesus in the boat and they gather at the shoreline to greet him. There is a hunger within them to hear Jesus speak. They are like sheep without a shepherd and Jesus is moved with compassion. His availability to teach and be with people is in itself a message to the accompanying disciples. This selfless and generous act of putting his own needs to one side is the essential part of missionary life with Jesus. ■

LEARN

"The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity because God desires that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit."

(Paul VI, June 22, 1973)

SAY

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head."

(St Charles Borromeo)

DO

Read the Gospel again and reflect on the compassion and care Jesus has for the crowd on the shoreline. What activities need to happen in our church to reflect the love of Christ?



REFLECT

There is a definite shift in Jesus' missionary activity today, as the crowds of people who see him and hear about his presence gather at the shoreline in the hope of catching a glimpse of the Son of David, the one sent by God. What precisely are the crowds looking for? Perhaps they are looking for an extraordinary sign of his power. The wind and the sea obey him after all, he can bring people back to life, and his way of speaking is nothing like people have heard before. Perhaps the people are

looking for a leader – someone who can guide them through life, a person who can offer words of encouragement and compassion.

Jesus provides leadership that brings people who were once far off, nearer to God through his flesh and blood. The Gospel of Mark creates this image of a large enthusiastic crowd of believers, and in doing so portrays God's mission of bringing the whole world closer to Jesus. The goal of the Gospels is this very

image. The nations of Israel will come to Jesus, they will gather, for in him they will see the face of God.

In many ways, we are all in search of solid leadership. We place our trust in competent politicians, religious leaders and others, but at times we are let down. The crowds that gather around Jesus today have also been let down by leadership. They are like sheep without a shepherd. But the shepherd has come. Jesus is present. In him we will find rest. ■