

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

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

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good
pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
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

Is 8:23-9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days
to come he will confer glory on the Way of
the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of
the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 26

Response:

The Lord in my light and my help.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:10-13. 17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our
Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences
between you, and instead of disagreeing
among yourselves, to be united again in your
belief and practice. From what Chloe's people
have been telling me, my dear brothers, it
is clear that there are serious differences
among you. What I mean are all these
slogans that you have, like: "I am for Paul," "I
am for Apollos," "I am for Cephas," "I am for
Christ." Has Christ been parcelled out? Was
it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you
baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but
to preach the Good News, and not to preach
that in the terms of philosophy in which the
crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the
kingdom,
and cured all kinds of sickness among the
people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 4:12-23

(For shorter form, read between > and <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

> Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus
went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth
he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside
town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali.
In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be
fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow
of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his
preaching with the message "Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is close at hand." <

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee
he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called
Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were
making a cast in the lake with their net, for
they were fishermen. And he said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you fishers of
men." And they left their nets at once and
followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair
of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his
brother John; they were in their boat with
their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and

he called them. At once, leaving the boat and
their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming
the Good News of the kingdom and curing
all kinds of diseases and sickness among the
people.

>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

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Today's Gospel extract sets the scene for Jesus' ministry in Galilee. The introduction has been his baptism, when God revealed him as God's beloved Son, so we have been given a glimpse of Jesus' true identity.

John the Baptist leaves the Gospel narrative: we are told that he has been arrested or handed over, as Jesus will be in his turn. Matthew underlines the close connection between the two by presenting Jesus' message as identical to that of the Baptist. Jesus' moving to the town of Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is guided by God's will, as shown by the quotation from the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus calls his first disciples. This is unusual, because normally a person would decide to become a disciple of a particular rabbi and join that teacher's circle. Here Jesus invites Peter, Andrew, James and John, who, except for Andrew, will be privileged witnesses to important events in the life of their Master. It is testimony to the human personality and attractiveness of Jesus that they spontaneously leave their secure and presumably prosperous employment and follow someone whom they have apparently just met.

Using Capernaum as his base, Jesus embarks on a preaching tour of the local synagogues, illustrating the arrival of the Kingdom of God by curing illnesses of all kinds. Thus begins his ministry in Galilee, the northern region of the land of Israel. ■

DO

Find a map of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus: there is probably one at the back of the Bible you use. When a town or region is mentioned in the Sunday readings, look it up on your map. This will help you to understand better the background to the ministry of Jesus.



Fragment of the oldest floor mosaic map of the Holy Land - the Holy City Jerusalem

LEARN

The "shadow of death" means deep, complete darkness.

Normally, disciples would choose the rabbi whose teachings they wished to follow: the rabbi did not seek out disciples.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus makes one journey to Jerusalem, unlike the version of John which presents several visits.

SAY

The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2)

REFLECT

Matthew tells us that the first four disciples had no hesitation in leaving what was to them safe, secure and familiar in order to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus. The purpose of the church is to perpetuate the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. The church is the people of God, the disciples of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is presented as the model of the church, which brings forth new disciples, new brothers and sisters for Jesus.

In many parts of the world, the Catholic Church is losing members, sometimes through people giving up the practice of the faith for a variety of reasons. But many people leave to join other Christian bodies and very often the reason has nothing to do with theology but with community and a sense of belonging to a group which celebrates its faith with joy and open conviction. Perhaps the past emphasis on individual piety and practice has left a deeper and more lasting mark than we realise. The attitude that we have to go to Mass can lead to people feeling that doing the minimum is sufficient to keep on the right side of God – or of the church authorities. If this is the thinking of a large number of the congregation, then this will create an atmosphere which visitors pick up very quickly.

Perhaps in our parish community we need to reflect more on the human attractiveness of Jesus and ask ourselves whether our kind of worship and relationships with one another truly present the Master whose disciples we claim to be. ■