

**Note:** Other prayers and readings may be used if the Scrutinies are celebrated today.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.*

Or

*When I prove my holiness among you,  
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.*

**COLLECT**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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** Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

>God spoke all these words. He said, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no gods except me.<

"You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

>"You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.< For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath and made it sacred.

>"Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

"You shall not kill.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."<

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 18

**RESPONSE:** *You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.*

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **R.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

**GOSPEL** John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Note:** Other prayers and readings may be used if the Scrutinies are celebrated today.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 136

**RESPONSE:** *O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!*

1. By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps. **R.**
2. For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
"Sing to us," they said,  
"one of Zion's songs." **R.**
3. O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! **R.**
4. O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! **R.**

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 2:4-10

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

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

**GOSPEL** John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Note:** Other prayers and readings may be used if the Scrutinies are celebrated today.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.*

**COLLECT**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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** Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, “Learn to know the Lord!” No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

**PSALM** Psalm 50

**RESPONSE:** *A pure heart create for me, O God.*

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!*

**GOSPEL** John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, “Sir, we should like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

“Now the hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
I tell you, most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it yields a rich harvest.  
Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.  
If a man serves me, he must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.  
Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, “It was an angel speaking to him.” Jesus answered, “It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

“Now sentence is being passed on this world;  
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I shall draw all men to myself.”

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat  
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.  
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*



**THE PROCESSION OR SOLEMN ENTRANCE**

**ANTIPHON**

*Hosanna to the Son of David;  
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
the King of Israel.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**ANTIPHON** as the procession enters the church

*As the Lord entered the holy city, the children of the  
Hebrews proclaimed the resurrection of life. Waving their  
branches of palm, they cried: Hosanna in the Highest.*

*When the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,  
they went out to meet him. Waving their branches of palm,  
they cried: Hosanna in the Highest.*

**THE SIMPLE ENTRANCE**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Six days before the Passover,  
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,  
the children ran to meet him;  
in their hands they carried palm branches  
and with a loud voice cried out:  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!  
O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is this king of glory?  
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!*

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

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

**PSALM** Psalm 21

**RESPONSE: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend." **R.**

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**
3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
"You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons." **R.**

**SECOND READING** Philippians 2:6-11

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

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.  
Christ was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.*

**GOSPEL** Mark 14:1 – 15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,  
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,  
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,  
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,  
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,  
your will be done.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, just as through the death of your Son  
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,  
so by his Resurrection  
you may lead us to where you call.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**