

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, for the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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.

FIRST READING 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife—who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,

from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him

all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,

she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,

her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,

she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;

the woman who is wise is the one to praise

Give her a share in what her hands have

worked for,

and let her works tell her praises at the city

gates.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps127

Response:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

1 O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

in a happy Jerusalem

all the days of your life.

(R.)

SECOND READING

5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You will not be expecting us to write

anything to you, brothers, about 'times and

seasons', since you know very well that the

Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief

in the night. It is when people are saying,

'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst

suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour

pains come on a pregnant woman; and there

will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord,

keep faithful, and I will give you

the crown of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

25:14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third is one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered;

so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to

everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." *The Gospel of the Lord.*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

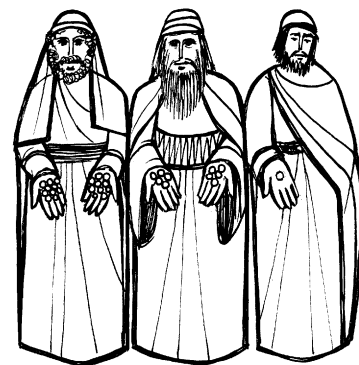
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



How accountable are you for the use or misuse of your God-given talents? What will happen if you do nothing at all with your talents?

Can using your talents within your faith community help those talents improve and grow?

Do you think your talents and abilities are a direct gift from God? Why or why not?

GOSPEL ACTION

Make a list of all your talents and mark those that you share with your faith community. If you are not sharing at least on talent, decide how you can begin to use that talent for the good of your faith community.

Readings – Christ the King

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 15:20-26.28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46