

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Midweek 1st October

The Collect

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First reading: Nehemiah 2:1-8

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before.

So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid.

I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?'

Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.'

The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date.

Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 137:1-6

1. By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, • when we remembered Zion.

2. As for our lyres, we hung them up • on the willows that grow in that land.

3. For there our captors asked for a song, our tormentors called for mirth:

• 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'

4. How shall we sing the Lord's song • in a strange land?

5. If I forget you, O Jerusalem, • let my right hand forget its skill.

6. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, • if I set not Jerusalem above my highest joy.

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 9:57-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'

And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.'

But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.'

Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest,

with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:

by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

