

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.

Weekday, 3rd December Advent 1

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light, now in the time
of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility; that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to
judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life
immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all
peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured
wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured
wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this
mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the
sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up
death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the
tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he
will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spo-
ken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we
have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is
the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and
rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will
rest on this mountain.

The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place as
straw is trodden down in a dung-pit.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd; • therefore can I lack nothing.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures • and leads me beside still waters.
3. He shall refresh my soul • and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; • for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; • you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, • and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**