

READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are

but did not give in to temptation,

give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your will,

that as you know our weakness,

so we may know your power to save;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

in this holy Eucharist

you renew us by your living bread.

Strengthen us to remain true to our calling

and with all who have served you in every age,

to serve you to the end.

Grant this through Christ

who is our strength and our salvation,

now and always.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent, who was more cunning than any other wild animal that God had made, said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and suddenly they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom our God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
and my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to my God."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great flood rises, it shall not reach them.

**You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

**Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in God.

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in our God;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Therefore, sin came into the world through one person, and through sin came death—in this way, death spread to all, because all have sinned. Sin was indeed in the world before the Law came, even though it is not called “sin” when there is no law. Still, death reigned over all who lived until the time of Moses, even though their sin—unlike the sin of Adam—was not a matter of breaking a law.

But the gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of one person all died, how much more has the grace of God—and the gracious gift of the one person, Jesus Christ—abounded for all! This free gift is not like what came to those who sinned. For the judgement following that one offense brought condemnation; but the free gift that now follows many offenses brings exoneration. If, because of one person's offense, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness live and reign through the one person, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, just as one person's offense led to condemnation for all, so one person's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through one person's disobedience all were made sinners, so by one person's obedience all will be made righteous.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel

of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News

of Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are God's Beloved, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are God's Beloved, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'God will command the angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put God to the test'."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the realms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You will worship God Most High; God alone will you serve'."

At that the devil left Jesus, and angels came and attended him.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.