

Collect and Readings

**Collect of the Day:**

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of your Son: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*Reader:* The Old Testament reading is taken from Ecclesiasticus 44:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. <sup>2</sup> The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. <sup>3</sup> There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and were men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and proclaiming prophecies; <sup>4</sup> leaders of the people in their deliberations and in understanding of learning for the people, wise in their words of instruction; <sup>5</sup> those who composed musical tunes, and set forth verses in writing; <sup>6</sup> rich men furnished with resources, living peaceably in their habitations—<sup>7</sup> all these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times. <sup>8</sup> There are some of them who have left a name, so that men declare their praise. <sup>9</sup> And there are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them. <sup>10</sup> But these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; <sup>11</sup> their prosperity will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance to their children's children. <sup>12</sup> Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. <sup>13</sup> Their posterity will continue for ever, and their glory will not be blotted out. <sup>14</sup> Their bodies were buried in peace, and their name lives to all generations.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*Reader:* This morning's psalm is Psalm 149 read responsively by full verse.

149 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

**<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!**

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

**<sup>4</sup> For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.**

<sup>5</sup> Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.

**<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,**

<sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,

**<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,**

<sup>9</sup> to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Reader:** The Epistle is taken from Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 5:1-12

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**