

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Liturgy at Nine Thirty

Amos's vision of the basket of summer fruit, the prophet's accusations against Israel's oppression of the poor and needy, and the threat of a coming day of divine judgement constitute the first reading today. Threatening notes are also sounded in the responsorial psalm, as lying, plotting to do evil, and a devouring spirit are assailed. The magnificent christological hymn, with its bold claims about Christ's role in creation and unique relationship with God, dominates the Epistle. Even so, the latter part of the passage spells out some of the implications of Christ's reconciling work. In the Gospel reading, Jesus commends Mary for her concentration and devotion and chides Martha for being distracted by the insignificant tasks of life.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

People: Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 8.1-12

This is what the Lord GOD showed me — a basket of summer fruit. He said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me, “The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,” says the Lord GOD; “the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!” Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? “On that day,” says the Lord GOD, “I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the

earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. The time is surely coming,” says the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.”

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 52



You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness against the godly all day long? You plot ruin; your tongue is like a sharpened razor, O worker of deception. *R/.*

You love evil more than good and lying more than speaking the truth. You love all words that hurt, O you deceitful tongue. *R/.*

Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling, and root you out of the land of the living! The righteous shall see and tremble, and they shall laugh at him, saying, "This is the one who did not take God for a refuge, but trusted in great wealth and relied upon wickedness." *R/.*

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will give you thanks for what you have done and declare the goodness of your Name in the presence of the godly. *R/.*

SECOND READING: Colossians 1.15-28

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 8.15

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are they who hold the word fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 10.38-42

R/. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of Christ

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider: O God, accept our praise and thanksgiving. Help us in all we do to offer ourselves as a true and living sacrifice; through Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: O God, as we are strengthened in these holy mysteries, may our lives be a continual offering, holy and acceptable in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen