

First Reading (Isaiah 40:25-31)

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-9)

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 19 (page 725)

- 1) The heavens declare the glory of God,
***and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

- 2) One day tells its tale to another,
***and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

- 3) Although they have no words or language,
***and their voices are not heard,**

- 4) Their sound has gone out into all lands,
***and their message to the ends of the world.**

- 5) In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
***it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

- 6) It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
***nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

- 7) The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul;
***the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

- 8) The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart;
***the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

- 9) The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever;
***the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

10) More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
***sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**

11) By them also is your servant enlightened,
***and in keeping them there is great reward.**

12) Who can tell how often he offends?
***cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13) Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
***then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.**

14) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,
***O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Gracious creator of heaven and earth, your Word has come among us as the true Sun of righteousness, and the good news of his birth has gone out to the ends of the world. Open our eyes to the light of your law, that we may be purified from sin and serve you without reproach for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Light and our Life.

Gospel Reading (John 1:1-18)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. or Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. or Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**