

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.*

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy...

Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people
grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of
Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So
Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They
are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass
on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel,
and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and
go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and
you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the
people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of
Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah,
because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because
they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R. 7c. 8a

R: O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

1. Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R.**
2. O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we
have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him
we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we
stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does
not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our
hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the
ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though
perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God
shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died
for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. John 4:42. 15

R: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

R: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

(a longer version may be read: John 4:5-42)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's
well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was
sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her,
'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city
to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that
you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For
Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If
you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give
me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given
you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to
draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living
water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the
well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.'
Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never
be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a
spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him,
'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come
here to draw water.'

'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped
on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where
people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me,
the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem
will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we
worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour
is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship
the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people
to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must
worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that
Messiah is coming – he who is called Christ. When he comes, he
will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of
the woman's testimony. So when the Samaritans came to him,
they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.
And many more believed because of his word. They said to the
woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe,
for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed
the Saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour... **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion... **Amen.**