THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock

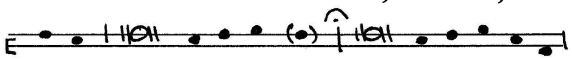
A vision of a new heaven and a new earth is vividly sketched in the text from Third Isaiah that serves as the Old Testament reading for today. The response is provided not by the Psalter, but by the song of praise in Isaiah 12, which heralds God as strength, shield, and source of saving power. The Epistle, from 2 Thessalonians, addresses the problem of idleness as an erroneous response to the preaching of an imminent Parousia. The Gospel reading is Luke's version of Jesus's apocalyptic discourses concerning the end of Jerusalem and the temple, the coming of the Son of Man, and the Eschaton. In all of today's texts that speak of God's judgement, we are reminded that it will be a time of both distress and joy.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65.17-25

Thus says the Lord GOD: I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord *R/. Thanks be to God*

GRADUAL: Isaiah 12.2-6; *Tone IV,4*



Be-hold, / God is **my** salva-tion : I will trust, **and** not be a-fraid

For the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my sŏng; he is also become **my** sal-va-tion : therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the **wells** of sal-va-tion.

And in that day ye shall say, **Praise** the Lord : call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his **name** is ex-alt-ed.

Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done ex-**cel**-lent things :
this **is** known in all the earth.

Cry out and shout, thou in habi-**tant** of Zion :
for great is the Holy One of Isra-**el** in the midst of thee.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord
R/. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 21.28

Alleluia. Alleluia. Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 21.5-19

R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord

And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, Jesus said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls.

The Gospel of Christ
R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ