### THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Liturgy at Nine Thirty - SEXAGESIMA

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Presider:* Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

#### First Lesson: Genesis 3.9-19

The Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

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

Psalm 83.1-2,13-18



- 1 O GOD, do **not** be si-lent: do not keep still nor **hold** your peace, O Göd;
- 2 For your enemies **are** in tu-mult : and those who hate you have **lift**-ed up their hëads.
- 13 O my God, make them like **whirl**-ing dust: and **like** chaff be-fore the wind.
- 14 Like fire that burns **down** a for-est: like the flame that **sets** moun-tains a-bläze.
- 15 Drive them with your tem-pest: and ter-ri-fy them with your störm.
- 16 Cover their faces with **shame**, O Lord: **that** they may seek your name.
- 17 Let them be disgraced and terri-**fied** for ev-er: let them be put to con-**fu**-sion and pe-rish.
- 18 Let them know that you, whose **Name** is Yah-weh: you alone are the Most **High** ov-er all the ëarth.

### Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11.21b-31

Whatever anyone dares to boast of —I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman—I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was

shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he for ever!) knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas set a guard on the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands

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

### **GRADUAL: PSALM 17.6-9**



- 6 I CALL upon you, O God, for you will an-swer me: incline your ear to me and hear my words.
- 7 Show me your marvellous loving-kind-ness:
  O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up <u>a</u>-gainst them.
- 8 Keep me as the apple of your **eye**: hide me under the sha-**dow** of your wings,
- 9 From the wicked who as-sault me: from my deadly enemies who sur-round me.

# Gospel: Luke 8.4-15

R/. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, Jesus said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand." 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.'

The Gospel of Christ *R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ* 

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*Presider:* Merciful God and Father, in Adam's fall we were born to death; in the new Adam we are reborn to life. In all we offer you this day may we share a taste of your eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Presider*: Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

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