

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

TRINITY 4 (YEAR A) PROPER 9

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Zec 9.9–12

A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 145



℣. I will bless your name for ever, my God and King. (*All repeat*)



Great is the Lord and worthy | of all praise; his glory is past | searching out. Men shall recount the might | of your deeds and proclaim your | majesty. ℣.

The Lord loves all that | he has made; his mercy is over | all his works. All your works | speak your praise and your people | give you thanks. ℣.

Your right hand raises | those that fall and those bowed down are | lifted up. All creatures wait on | you for food and from your hand their | wants are filled. ℣.

The Lord is near to | those who call; he hears their cry and | brings them help. My mouth shall tell the | praise of God, and let all flesh his | name adore. ℣.

SECOND READING

Rom 7.15–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 11.25

Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth:

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mt 11.16–19, 25–30

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said:

“To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to their playmates, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no-one knows the Son except the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, may this offering which we make to you cleanse our hearts and help us to lead lives that will prepare us for heaven; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**