



patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Ps 95,3,7,8*

***Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.***

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice:

Harden not your hearts.

***Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.***

GOSPEL READING

*Mt 6,1–6,16–21*

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.**

Jesus said to the disciples:

“Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is

in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, help us to resist temptation by our Lenten works of charity and penance. By this sacrifice may we be prepared to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

And the blessing ...