

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

4 BEFORE LENT (YEAR C) PROPER 2

COLLECT

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jer 17.5–10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 1



R. Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord. (*All repeat*)



Happy indeed | is the man who follows not the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingers in the | way of sinners, nor sits in the company | of the scornful. **R.**

His delight is in the law | of the Lord, and he meditates on his law | day and night. He is like a tree planted beside | flowing waters, that yields its fruit | in due season. **R.**

It is not so | with the wicked: they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

For the Lord guards the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked | leads to doom. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15.12–20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth:
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries
of the kingdom.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Lk 6.17-26

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

May this offering cleanse and renew us, Lord, we pray, and in our fulfilment of your will may it lead us to an eternal reward; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**