

Introit

Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46



I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1–10

8 all the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses that the Lord had given Israel. 2 On the first day of the seventh month, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding. 3 While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively[a] to the book of the law. 4 The scribe Ezra stood on a high wooden platform made for this purpose. Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him on his right; to his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people, since he was elevated above everyone. As he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and with their hands uplifted all the

people said, “Amen, Amen!” Then they knelt low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

7 Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah, who were Levites,[b] explained the law to the people as they stood in their places. 8 They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. 9 Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all of them, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 103:1–13



Bless the LORD, O My Soul

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Epistle

1 Timothy 6:11–16

11 But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

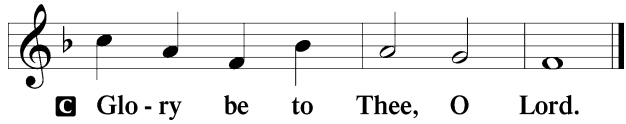
Psalms 119:46

P ⁴⁶I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame,

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:26b–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.



There is nothing covered that won't be uncovered and nothing hidden that won't be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops. 28 Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. 30 But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 32 "Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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