

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul,
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22

Response: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,

says the Lord,

I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What do you suppose the apostles told Jesus when they returned from their ministry trips? How might they have interpreted the successes and failures of their mission?

How do you look at your own successes and failures? Do you find it difficult to forgive yourself for your failures?

How do you find spiritual refreshment when you are drained? Do you find greater nourishment in a lonely place or in the company of others? Why?

Where are your deserted places where prayer and meditation become easier? How do you find these quiet, out of the way places in the midst of busy days?

Have you ever shared the low points of your faith life with another person? What happened? Has anyone shared their low times with you?

When you recognize that someone is struggling in his or her faith life, do you keep quiet or reach out to them? Why?

GOSPEL ACTION

Resolve to find one or two new quiet places to pray this week. If you are not already doing so, begin to keep a spiritual journal. Look back over your faith life and discover the people or things that gave your faith a boost when you were feeling low.

Readings – 17th Sunday Year B

First Reading: 2Kings 2:42-44

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15