

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1-4

The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God:

1 “See, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, he is coming,”
says the Lord of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?
For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap;
3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old and as in former years.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.10)

R. The Lord of hosts: he is king of glory!

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. **R.**

8 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle. **R.**

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. **R.**

10 Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.10-11, 13b-18++

Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

10 It was fitting that God,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the source of their salvation
perfect through sufferings.
11 For the one who sanctifies
and those who are sanctified all have one Father.
For this reason
Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
13 “Here am I,
and the children whom God has given me.”
14 Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death
he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil,
15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death.
16 For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham.
17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every respect,
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
18 Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 2.32

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is a light of revelation to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation.

The shorter version (22-32) ends at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

- 22 When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord.
- 23 As it is written in the law of the Lord,
“Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord,”
- 24 and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
“a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”
- 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
- 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death
before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.
- 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
- 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
- 29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.” *
- 33 The child’s father and mother
were amazed at what was being said about him.
- 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
“This child is destined
for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,

and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God
and to speak about the child
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When the parents of Jesus had finished everything
required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favour of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.