



**Weekday Readings**  
**Fourth week in Ordinary Time**  
**1 – 6 February 2016**

# Monday of the fourth week in Ordinary Time - 2/1/2016

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

## FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 15:13-14. 30; 16:5-13

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*Let us fly from the face of Absalom. Shimei was sent to bring the curse by precept of the Lord God.*

A messenger came to tell David, 'The hearts of the men of Israel are now with Absalom.' So David said to all his officers who were with him in Jerusalem, 'Let us be off, let us fly, or we shall never escape from Absalom. Leave as quickly as you can in case he mounts a surprise attack and worsts us and puts the city to the sword.'

David then made his way up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, his head covered and his feet bare. And all the people with him had their heads covered and made their way up, weeping as they went.

As David was reaching Bahurim, out came a man of the same clan as Saul's family. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and as he came he uttered curse after curse and threw stones at David and at all King David's officers, though the whole army and all the champions flanked the king right and left. The words of his curse were these, 'Be off, be off, man of blood, scoundrel! The Lord has brought on you all the blood of the House of Saul whose sovereignty you have usurped; and the Lord has transferred that same sovereignty to Absalom your son. Now your doom has overtaken you, man of blood that you are.' Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, 'Is this dead dog to curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut his head off.' But the king replied, 'What business is it of mine and yours, son of Zeruiah? Let him curse. If the Lord said to him, "Curse David," what right has anyone to say, "Why have you done this?"' David said to Abishai and all his officers, 'Why, my own son, sprung from my body, is now seeking my life; so now how much the more this Benjaminite? Let him curse on if the Lord has told him to. Perhaps the Lord will look on my misery and repay me with good for his curse today.' So David and his men went on their way.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 3:2-8

R. Lord, rise up and save me.

How many are my foes, O Lord! How many are rising up against me! How many are saying about me: 'There is no help for him in God.'

**R.**

But you, Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, who lift up my head. I cry aloud to the Lord. He answers from his holy mountain.

**R.**

I lie down to rest and I sleep. I wake, for the Lord upholds me. I will not fear even thousands of people who are ranged on every side against me. Arise, Lord; save me, my God.

**R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: MARK 5:1-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Unclean spirit, come out of the man!*

Jesus and his disciples reached the country of the Gerasenes on the other side of the lake, and no sooner had he left the boat than a man with an unclean spirit came out from the tombs towards him. The man lived in the tombs and no one could secure him any more, even with a chain, because he had often been secured with fetters and chains but had snapped the chains and broken the fetters, and no one had the strength to control him. All night and all day, among the tombs and in the mountains, he would howl and gash himself with stones. Catching sight of Jesus from a distance, he ran up and fell at his feet and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What do you want from me, Jesus, son of the Most high God? Swear by God you will not torture me!' - For Jesus had been saying to him, 'Come out of the man, unclean spirit.' 'What is your name?' Jesus asked. 'My name is legion,' he answered 'for there are many of us.' And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the district. Now there was there on the mountainside a great herd of pigs feeding and the unclean spirits begged him, 'Send us to the pigs, let us go into them'. So he gave them leave. With that, the unclean spirits came out and went into the pigs, and the herd of about two thousand pigs charged down the cliff into the lake, and there they were drowned. The swineherds ran off and told their story in the town and in the country round about; and the people came to see what really happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his full senses - the very man who had had the legion in him before - and they were afraid. And those who had witnessed it reported what had happened to the demoniac and what had become of the pigs. Then they began to implore Jesus to leave the neighbourhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed begged to be allowed to stay with him. Jesus would not let him but said to him, 'Go home to your people and tell them all that the Lord in his mercy has done for you.' So the man went off and proceeded to spread throughout the Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

# The Presentation of the Lord (F)

## - 2/2/2016 - Year B

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

### FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

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

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 23:7-10

**R.** Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

**R.**

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war.

**R.**

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**

Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. **R.**

### SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*He had to be made like us in all things.*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's

religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*My eyes have seen your saving power.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and he blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

# Wednesday of the fourth week in Ordinary Time - 2/3/2016

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

## FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 24:2. 9-17

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*I have sinned, but these people, this flock, what have they done?*

King David said to Joab and to the senior army officers who were with him, 'Now go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and take a census of the people; I wish to know the size of the population.'

Joab gave the king the figures for the census of the people; Israel numbered eight hundred thousand armed men capable of drawing sword, and Judah five hundred thousand men.

But afterwards David's heart misgave him for having taken a census of the people. 'I have committed a grave sin,' David said to the Lord. 'But now, Lord, I beg you to forgive your servant for this fault. I have been very foolish.' But when David got up the next morning, the following message had come from the Lord to the prophet Gad, David's seer, 'Go and say to David, "The Lord says this: I offer you three things; choose one of them for me to do to you."'

So Gad went to David and told him. 'Are three years of famine to come on you in your country,' he said, 'or will you flee for three months before your pursuing enemy, or would you rather have three days' pestilence in your country? Now think, and decide how I am to answer him who sends me.' David said to Gad, 'This is a hard choice. But let us rather fall into the power of the Lord, since his mercy is great, and not into the power of men.' So David chose pestilence.

It was the time of the wheat harvest. The Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning till the time appointed and plague ravaged the people, and from Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of them died. The angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, but the Lord thought better of this evil, and he said to the angel who was destroying the people, 'Enough! now withdraw your hand.' The angel of the Lord was beside the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was ravaging the people, he spoke to the Lord. 'It was I who sinned;' he said, 'I who did this wicked thing. But these, this flock, what have they done? Let your hand lie heavy on me then, and on my family.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 31:1-2. 5-7

**R.** Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins, my guilt I did not hide. I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.' And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **R.**

So let every good man pray to you in the time of need. The floods of water may reach high but him they shall not reach. **R.**

You are my hiding place, O Lord; you save me from distress. You surround me with cries of deliverance. **R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: JOHN 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: MARK 6:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*A prophet is without honour in his own country.*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

# Thursday of the fourth week in Ordinary Time - 2/4/2016

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

## FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 2:1-4. 10-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*I am going the way of all the earth; be strong, Solomon, and show yourself a man.*

As David's life drew to its close he laid this charge on his son Solomon, 'I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong and show yourself a man. Observe the injunctions of the Lord your God, following his ways and keeping his laws, his commandments, his customs and his decrees, as it stands written in the Law of Moses, that so you may be successful in all you do and undertake, so that the Lord may fulfil the promise he made me, "If your sons are careful how they behave, and walk loyally before me with all their heart and soul, you shall never lack for a man on the throne of Israel."

So David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the Citadel of David. David's reign over Israel lasted forty years: he reigned in Hebron for seven years, and in Jerusalem for thirty-three.

Solomon was seated upon the throne of David, and his sovereignty was securely established.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 1 CHRONICLES 29:10-12

**R.** Lord, you are exalted over all.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel, our father, for ever, for ages unending. **R.**

Yours, Lord, are greatness and power, and splendour, triumph and glory. All is yours, in heaven and on earth. **R.**

Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, you are supreme over all. Both honour and riches come from you. **R.**

You are the ruler of all, from your hand come strength and power, from your hand come greatness and might. **R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: MARK 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: MARK 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He summoned the Twelve and sent them out in pairs.*

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

# Saint Agatha (M) - 2/5/2016 - Year B

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent, who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ

## FIRST READING: SIRACH 47:2-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*David praised the Lord God with all his heart and loved him.*

As the fat is set apart from the communion sacrifice, so David was chosen out of all the sons of Israel. He played with lions as though with kids, and with bears as though with lambs of the flock. While still a boy, did he not slay the giant, and relieve the people of their shame, by putting out a hand to sling a stone which brought down the arrogance of Goliath? For he called on the Lord Most High, who gave strength to his right arm to put a mighty warrior to death, and lift up the horn of his people. Hence they gave him credit for ten thousand, and praised him while they blessed the Lord, by offering him a crown of glory; for he massacred enemies on every side, he annihilated his foes the Philistines, and crushed their horn to this very day. In all his activities he gave thanks to the Holy One, the Most High, in words of glory; he put all his heart into his songs out of love for his Maker. He placed harps before the altar to make the singing sweeter with their music; he gave the feasts their splendour, the festivals their solemn pomp, causing the Lord's holy name to be praised and the sanctuary to resound from dawn.

The Lord took away his sins, and exalted his horn for ever; he gave him a royal covenant, and a glorious throne in Israel.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 17:31. 47. 50-51

**R.** Blessed be God my salvation!

The ways of God are perfect; the word of the Lord, purest gold. He indeed is the shield of all who make him their refuge. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. I will praise you, Lord, among the nations: I will sing a psalm to your name. **R.**

He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed, for David and his sons for ever. **R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CF LUKE 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: MARK 6:14-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*It is John whose head I have cut off. He has risen from the dead.*

King Herod had heard about Jesus, since by now his name was well-known. Some were saying, 'John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.' Others said, 'He is Elijah;' others again, 'he is a prophet, like the prophets we used to have.' But when Herod heard this he said, 'It is John whose head I cut off; he has risen from the dead.'

Now it was this same Herod who had sent to have John arrested, and had him chained up in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife whom he had married. For John had told Herod, 'It is against the law for you to have your brother's wife.' As for Herodias, she was furious with him and wanted to kill him; but she was not able to, because Herod was afraid of John, knowing him to be a good and holy man, and gave him his protection. When he had heard him speak he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him.

An opportunity came on Herod's birthday when he gave a banquet for the nobles of his court for his army officers and for the leading figures of Galilee. When the daughter of this same Herodias came in and danced, she delighted Herod and his guests; so the king said to the girl, 'Ask me anything you like and I will give it you.' And he swore her an oath, 'I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What shall I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the Baptist.' The girl hurried straight back to the king and made her request, 'I want you to give me John the Baptist's head, here and now on a dish.' The king was deeply distressed but, thinking of the oaths that he had sworn and of his guests, he was reluctant to break his word to her. So the king at once sent one of the bodyguard with orders to bring John's head. The man went off and beheaded him in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard about this, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lamb who is at the center of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life

# Saint Paul Miki and companions (M) - 2/6/2016 - Year B

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The souls of the Saints are rejoicing in heaven, the Saints who followed the footsteps of Christ, and since for love of him they shed their blood, they now exult with Christ for ever.

## FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:4-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*Give your servant an understanding heart to govern your people.*

King Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, since that was the greatest of the high places - he offered a thousand holocausts on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared in a dream to Solomon during the night. God said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'You showed great kindness to your servant David, my father, when he lived his life before you in faithfulness and justice and integrity of heart; you have continued this great kindness to him by allowing a son of his to sit on his throne today. Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you. What you have not asked I shall give you too: such riches and glory as no other king ever had.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 118:9-14

**R.** Lord, teach me your decrees.

How shall the young remain sinless? By obeying your word. I have sought you with all my heart: let me not stray from your commands. **R.**

I treasure your promise in my heart lest I sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord: teach me your statutes. **R.**

With my tongue I have recounted the decrees of your lips. I rejoiced to do your will as though all riches were mine. **R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: JOHN 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: MARK 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*They were sheep without a shepherd.*

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.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, says the Lord, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.