

Thursday of the twelfth week in Ordinary Time

Thursday 25 Jun 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

FIRST READING 2 KINGS 24:8-17 (JB)

Joachim and all his leaders surrendered to the king of Babylon and were prisoners in Babylon.

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he came to the throne, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta, daughter of Elnathan, from Jerusalem. He did what is displeasing to the Lord, just as his father had done.

At that time troops of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched on Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon himself came to attack the city while his troops were besieging it. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah surrendered to the king of Babylon, he, his mother, his officers, his nobles and his eunuchs, and the king of Babylon took them prisoner. This was in the eighth year of King Nebuchadnezzar.

The latter carried off all the treasures of the Temple of the Lord and the treasures of the royal palace, and broke up all the golden furnishings that Solomon king of Israel had made for the sanctuary of the Lord, as the Lord had foretold. He carried off all Jerusalem into exile, all the nobles and all the notables, ten thousand of these were exiled, with all the blacksmiths and metalworkers; only the poorest people in the country were left behind. He deported Jehoiachin to Babylon, as also the king's mother, his eunuchs and the nobility of the country; he made them all leave Jerusalem for exile in Babylon. All the men of distinction, seven thousand of them, the blacksmiths and metal workers, one thousand of them, all of them men capable of bearing arms, were led into exile in Babylon by the king of Babylon.

The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in succession to him, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 78:1-5, 8-9 (JB)

R. For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.

O God, the nations have invaded your land, they have profaned your holy temple. They have made Jerusalem a heap of ruins. They have handed over the bodies of your servants as food to feed the birds of heaven and the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. **R.**

They have poured out blood like water in Jerusalem, leaving no one to bury the dead. We have become the taunt of our neighbours, the mockery and scorn of those who surround us. How long, O Lord? Will you be angry for ever, how long will your anger burn like fire? **R.**

Do not hold the guilt of our fathers against us. Let your compassion hasten to meet us for we are in the depths of distress. **R.**

O God our saviour, come to our help, come for the sake of the glory of your name. O Lord our God, forgive us our sins; rescue us for the sake of your name. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 14:23 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL MATTHEW 7:21-29 (JB)

The house built on rock is compared to the house built on sand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. When the day comes many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, cast out demons in your name, work miracles in your name?" Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, you evil men!

"Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell: and what a fall it had!"

Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.