

Friday of the twelfth week in Ordinary Time

Friday 26 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 25:1-12 (JB)

The land of Judah was taken away.

In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with his whole army to attack Jerusalem; he pitched camp in front of the city and threw up earthworks round it. The city lay under siege till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. In the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, when famine was raging in the city and there was no food for the populace, a breach was made in the city wall. At once, the king made his escape under cover of dark, with all the fighting men, by way of the gate between the two walls, which is near the king's garden - the Chaldeans had surrounded the city - and made his way towards the Arabah. The Chaldean troops pursued the king and caught up with him in the plains of Jericho, where all his troops deserted. The Chaldeans captured the king and took him back to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence on him. He had the sons of Zedekiah slaughtered before his eyes, then put out Zedekiah's eyes and, loading him with chains, carried him off to Babylon.

In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month - it was in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon - Nebuzaradan, commander of the guard, an officer of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. He burned down the Temple of the Lord, the royal palace and all the houses in Jerusalem. The Chaldean troops who accompanied the commander of the guard demolished the walls surrounding Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan, commander of the guard, deported the remainder of the population left behind in the city, the deserters who had gone over to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the common people. The commander of the guard left some of the humbler country people as vineyard workers and ploughmen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 136:1-6 (JB)

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

R.

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

MATTHEW 8:17 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sicknesses, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 7:21-29 (JB)

If you will, you can cure me.

After Jesus had come down from the mountain large crowds followed him. A leper now came up and bowed low in front of him. 'Sir,' he said, 'if you want to, you can cure me.' Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said, 'Of course I want to! Be cured!' And his leprosy was cured at once. Then Jesus said to him, 'Mind you do not tell anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest and make the offering prescribed by Moses, as evidence for them.'

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.