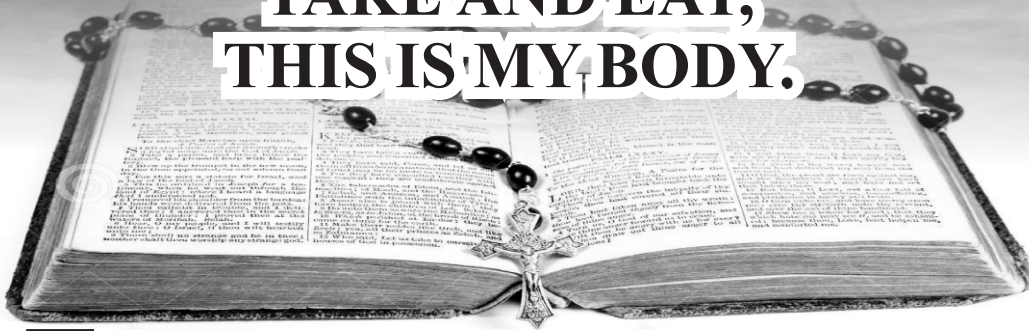


## THEME OF THE SUNDAY:

# TAKE AND EAT, THIS IS MY BODY.



The readings of today are on the theme of food that gives us life. The first is a beautiful “parable” of a lady who offers food to the “inexperienced.” This wisdom is the word of God that, all of us are invited to make our own and to translate into our lives. The gospel tells us about the wisdom that comes from God and nourishes us with the body and blood of Christ. By listening to him we can understand what God wants to tell us. By eating him, that is by identifying with his person, we achieve eternal life. The second reading completes our catechesis for this Sunday. It invites us to live in accordance with the wisdom of God in whatever difficult situations we may find ourselves. The readings of today are on the theme of food that gives us life. The first is a beautiful “parable” of a lady who offers food to the “inexperienced.” This wisdom is the word of God that, all of us are invited to make our own and to translate into our lives. The gospel tells us about the wisdom that comes from God and nourishes us with the body and blood of Christ. By listening to him we can understand what God wants to tell us. By eating him, that is by identifying with his person, we achieve eternal life. The second reading completes our catechesis for this Sunday. It invites us to live in accordance with the wisdom of God in whatever difficult situations we may find ourselves.

### THE CREED (I BELIEVE)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and

rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer After Holy Communion ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me! Body of Christ, save me! Blood of Christ inebriate me! Water from the side of Christ, wash me! Passion of Christ, Strengthen me! O good Jesus, hear me! Within your wounds, hide me! Permit me not to be separated from You! From the malignant enemy, defend me! At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you! So that with your saints, I may praise you forever and ever, Amen!

### Prayer for those unable to be us at Mass today

Almighty God, we beseech you to grant your grace to our brothers and sisters unable to be with us at Mass today. Keep them safe, support them with your love, be near them in moments of sickness and anxiety and bless all those who care for those in need. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR NIGERIA IN DISTRESS.

All powerful and merciful father You are a God of justice love and peace, You rule over all the nations of the earth, power and might are in your hands and no one can withstand you, We present our country Nigeria before you, we praise and thank you for you are the source of all we have and are, We are sorry for all the sins we have committed and for the good deeds we have failed to do.

In your loving forgiveness keep us safe from the punishment we deserve. Lord we are weighed down not only by uncertainties but also by moral, economic and political problems. Listen to the cries of your people who confidently turn to you.

God of infinite goodness, our strength in adversity, our health in weakness, our comfort in sorrow, be merciful to us your people; spare this nation Nigeria from chaos, anarchy and doom.

Bless us with your kingdom of justice, love and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL

**"You shall love the Lord your God, your neighbour as yourself."**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22:34-40)**

**A**t that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## SATURDAY

August 24, 2024



**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, AP.  
(FEAST)**

## FIRST READING

**On the foundations the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

**A reading from the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:9b-14)**

**A**n angel spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And in the Spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps145:10-11.12-13ab.17-18 (R. 12a)**

**R/. Your saints, O Lord, make known the glory of your reign.**

All your works shall thank you, O Lord, and all your faithful ones bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your reign, and declare your mighty deeds. **R/.**

To make known your might to the children of men, and the glorious splendour of your reign. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your rule endures for all generations. **R/.**

The Lord is just in all his ways, and holy in all his deeds. The Lord is close to all who call him, who call on him in truth. **R/.**

**ALLELUIA John 1:49 b**

**Alleluia.** Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

**Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 1:45-51)**

**A**t that time: Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Sunday 18 August, 2024**

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

### FIRST READING

**"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed."**

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs (Proverbs 9: 1-6)**

**W**isdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her maids to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" to him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

**The word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(Psalm 34: 1-2.9-10.11- 12.13- 14 (R. 1)**

**R/. Taste and see that the Lord is good!**

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. **R/.**

Fear the Lord, you his holy ones. They lack nothing, those who fear him. The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **R/.**

Come, children, and hear me, that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is it that desires life and longs to see prosperous days? **R/.**

Guard your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn aside from evil and do good. Seek after peace, and pursue it. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

**"Understand what the will of the Lord is."**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 5:15-20)**

**L**ook carefully, brethren, how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

**The word of the Lord.**

**ALLELUIA John 6:56**

**Alleluia.** He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

**"My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed."**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 6:5 1-58)**

**A**t that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the



Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### Celebrant:

In Love, Christ the true bread from heaven gives us himself as food for our earthly journey. Let us now ask God for a greater appreciation of this love.

**FOR THE CHURCH:** that she may eagerly nourish her children with the body and blood of Christ, so that they may have life in abundance. Let us pray to the Lord.

**FOR CIVIL LEADERS:** that they may work for the equitable distribution of their country's goods for the benefit of their people. Let us pray to the Lord.

**FOR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING:** that they may go beyond the provision of intellectual formation and guide the students on the path of understanding the command of the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord.

**FOR OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY:** that we may hunger and thirst not merely for material food and drink but, most of all, for the spiritual food and drink that leads to eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.

**FOR OTHER INTENTIONS:** (the sick, church projects or other activities).

**FOR THE DEAD, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND FAMILY MEMBERS:** that they may find eternal rest with the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray in silence for our private intentions.

### Celebrant:

God our heavenly father, you never fail to provide our material and spiritual needs. Graciously look upon your children who call upon you and, in your kindness, hear and answer them. Through Christ our Lord.

**R/. Amen.**

**MONDAY**  
**August 19, 2024**

**St John Eudes, P. (Opt. Mem.)**

### FIRST READING

**"Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign, according to all that he has done you shall do."**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 24:15-24)**

**T**he word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man; behold, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke; yet you shall not mourn or weep nor shall your tears run down. Sigh, but not aloud; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban, and put your shoes on your feet; do not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of mourners." So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And on the next morning I did as I was commanded. And the people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things mean for us, that you are acting thus?" Then I said to them, "The word of the Lord came to me: 'Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the desire of your soul; and your sons and your daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword. And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of mourners. Your turbans shall be on your heads and your shoes on your feet; you shall not mourn or weep, but you shall pine away in your iniquities and groan to one another. Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.'"

**The word of the Lord.**

there will be weeping and quashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**FRIDAY**  
**August 23, 2024**

**St Rose of Lima, V. (Opt. Mem.)**

### FIRST READING

**"O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. I will raise you from your graves, O my people."**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37:1-14)**

**I**n those days: The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Again he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no spirit in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, and say to the spirit, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O spirit, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the spirit came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. Then he said to me, "Son of man,

these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord."

**The word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 107:2-3.4-5.6-7.8-9 (R. 1)**

**R/. O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!**

**Or: Alleluia.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this, those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, and gathered from far-off lands, from east and west, north and south. **R/.**

They wandered in a barren desert, finding no way to a city they could dwell in. Hungry they were and thirsty; their soul was fainting within them. **R/.**

Then they cried to the Lord in their need, and he rescued them from their distress, and he guided them along a straight path, to reach a city they could dwell in. **R/.**

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men; for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things. **R/.**

**ALLELUIA Psalm 25:4b.5a**

**Alleluia.** Teach me your paths, O Lord. Guide me in your truth. **Alleluia.**

**THURSDAY**

**August 22 2024**



**QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (MEMORIAL)**

**FIRST READING**

**“Anew heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you.”**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36:23-28)**

**T**hus says the Lord: “I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations will know that I am the Lord, says the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(Psalm 51 : 12-13.14- I 5.18-19 (R. Ezekiel 36:25)**

**R/. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me. **R/.**

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.

I will teach transgressors your ways,  
that sinners may return to you. **R/.**

For in sacrifice you take no delight;  
burnt offering from me would not please you. My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit:  
a broken and humbled heart, O God,  
you will not spurn. **R/.**

**ALLELUIA Psalm 95:7d.8a**

**Alleluia.** Today, harden not your hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord. **Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

**“Invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.”**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22: 1-14)**

**A**t that time: Again Jesus spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burnt their city. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the streets, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness, where

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(Dt 32: 18-19.20.21 (R. see 18b)**

**R/. You forgot God who gave you birth.**

You were unmindful of the Rock that begot you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth. The Lord saw it, and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. **R/.**

And he said, “I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness.” **R/.**

“They have stirred me to jealousy with what is no god; they have provoked me with their idols. So I will stir them to jealousy with those who are no people; I will provoke them with a foolish nation.” **R/.**

**ALLELUIA Matthew 5:3**

**Alleluia.** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

**“If you would be perfect, sell what you possess, and you will have treasure in heaven.”**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 19: 16-22)**

**A**t that time: Behold, one came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And he said to him “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**TUESDAY**

**August 20 2024**



**ST BERNARD, Abb. D. (MEMORIAL)**

**FIRST READING**

**“You are but a man, and no god, though you consider yourself as wise as a god.”**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 28: 1-10)**

**T**he word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because your heart is proud, and you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,’ yet you are but a man, and no god, though you consider yourself as wise as a god — you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; by your wisdom and your understanding you have gotten wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth — therefore thus says the Lord God: “Because you consider yourself as wise as a god, therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, the most terrible of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendour. They shall thrust you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who slay you, though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who wound you? You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, says the Lord God.”

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(Dt 32:26-27ab.27cd-28.30.35cd-36ab**

**R/. I kill and I make alive.**

“I would have said, ‘I will scatter them afar, I will make the remembrance of them cease from among men,’



had I not feared provocation by the enemy, lest their adversaries should judge amiss.” **R/.**

“Lest they should say, 'Our hand is triumphant, the Lord has not wrought all this.' For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them.” **R/.**

“How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had given them up?” **R/.**

“For the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly. For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.” **R/.**

#### **ALLELUIA 2 Corinthians 8:9**

**Alleluia.** Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **Alleluia.**

#### **GOSPEL**

**“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 19:23-30)**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Then Peter said in reply, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes

of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **WEDNESDAY**

**August 21, 2024**



#### **FIRST READING**

**“I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.”**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34: 1-11)**

**T**he word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Oh, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the crippled you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord

GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.”

**The word of the Lord.**

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(Ps 23:1-3a.3b-4.5.6 (R. 1))**

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

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;  
he revives my soul. **R/.**

He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the  
valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me  
comfort. **R/.**

You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R/.**

Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending. **R/.**

#### **ALLELUIA Hebrews 4: 12**

**Alleluia.** The word of the Lord is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Alleluia.**

#### **GOSPEL**

**“Do you begrudge my generosity?”**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 20: 1-16a)**

**A**t that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' “They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' “He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' “And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' “But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**