

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

We run the race set before us, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 45.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, 'Woe is me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.' Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted – that is, the whole land. And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the LORD; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 126

R Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed, will come again
with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING

Acts 11.27 – 12.2

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up

and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20.20–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glorify to you, O Lord.** The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.' When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near. *Ephesians 2.19,17*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, accept all we bring before you this day. Guide us with your love and feed us at your altar as you nourish the faith of the Church by the preaching of your apostles. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**