

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM

What human being can learn the counsel of God?
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,
and our designs are likely to fail,
for a perishable body weighs down the soul,
and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts.
We can hardly guess at what is on earth,
and what is at hand we find with labour;
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?
Who has learned your counsel,
unless you have given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
And thus the paths of those on earth were set right,
and people were taught what pleases you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.*

You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.*

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation*

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Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.*

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Brothers and Sisters:

You have not come to what may be touched,
a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
and the sound of a trumpet
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Sion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in
heaven,
and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.
THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO LUKE

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not turn away from his own father and mother, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish."

Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

The Gospel of the Lord

THE REFLECTION