

INTRODUCTION

The first reading begins to explain the Poor in Spirit are who trust in the Lord alone.

The Psalm echoes the first reading and the first Blessing

The second reading shows Paul's problems with the divisions among the community in Corinth

The Gospel is the pathway to heaven.

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,
who do his just commands;
seek righteousness; seek humility;
perhaps you may be hidden
on the day of the anger of the LORD.

I will leave in your midst
a people humble and lowly.
They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,
those who are left in Israel;
they shall do no injustice and speak no lies,
nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful
tongue.

For they shall graze and lie down,
and none shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE FIRST LETTER
OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

The word of the Lord

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO MATTHEW

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain,
and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of
God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

THE REFLECTION

It is easier to describe Hell than Heaven, Hell seems to be a place of torment which preachers dwelt on and heaven a place of peace, doing nothing. Hell is frightening even the church's modern view is that it is eternal separation from God's Kingdom, Dante imagined an unhappy place with the Devil totally isolated at its lowest Depths.

Today's gospel helps us to explain Heaven as joyful activity together. A trust in the loving Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit at its heart. rather than relying on the own power of our own flawed spirit. A sympathy and understanding moving to joy the people who feel they have lost something they love.

The third, like the first reminds us of the needs of others because real love is attending to the need of another.

The brave who have struggled for what is right will see justice as fairness, each receiving what is right for them as they are. The generous will see the joy they have brought to people cure of illness or raised from poverty, the animals living in safely and fulfilment waiting to play or be together with you.

C. S Lewis was incomplete when he feared Heaven would be eternal choir practice, it will be a joy in the presence of God and each other, active and constructive in everlasting activity, building good relationships and enjoying chosen times of rest.