

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading**

Isaiah 52:7-10

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.  
*People*          **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 2**

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? \*  
**Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?**
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together, \*  
**against the LORD and against his Anointed?**
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; \*  
**"let us cast off their bonds from us."**
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; \*  
**the Lord has them in derision.**
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, \*  
**and his rage fills them with terror.**
- 6 "I myself have set my king \*  
**upon my holy hill of Zion."**
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: \*  
**he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.**
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for  
your inheritance \*  
**and the ends of the earth for your possession.**
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod \*  
**and shatter them like a piece of pottery."**
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; \*  
**be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, \*  
**and with trembling bow before him;**
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; \*  
**for his wrath is quickly kindled.**
- 13 Happy are they all \*  
**who take refuge in him!**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 4:7-8,11-16

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-15

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**