

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Who is this arising like the dawn,
fair as the moon,
resplendent as the sun,
terrible as an army with banners.

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 4:11-18

Wisdom brings up her own sons,
and cares for those who seek her.
Whoever loves her loves life,
those who wait on her early will be filled with happiness.
Whoever holds her close will inherit honour,
and wherever he walks the Lord will bless him.
Those who serve her minister to the Holy One,
and the Lord loves those who love her.
Whoever obeys her judges aright,
and whoever pays attention to her dwells secure.
If he trusts himself to her he will inherit her;
and his descendants will remain in possession of her;
for though she takes him at first through winding ways,
bringing fear and faintness on him,
plaguering him with her discipline until she can trust him,
and testing him with her ordeals,
in the end she will lead him back to the straight road,
and reveal her secrets to him.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! **(R.)**

From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!
High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory. **(R.)**

Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? **(R.)**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raised the poor
to set him in the company of princes
yes, with the princes of his people. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:18-25

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. As scripture says: I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our thinkers of today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are you, O blessed Virgin Mary;
without dying you won the martyr's crown beside the cross of the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Gospel according to John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary,
by the Lord God Most High,
above all women on the earth;
for he has so exalted your name,
that your praise shall be undying on our lips.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace You and Unite myself entirely to You:
never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A

First Reading: **Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17**
Second Reading: **Corinthians 15:20-26, 28**
Gospel: **Matthew 25:31-46**