

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 30: 3-4**

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my  
stronghold! Lead me, guide me,  
for the sake of your name.

**First Reading**

**Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21**

If you wish, you can keep the  
commandments, to behave  
faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before  
you; put out your hand to  
whichever you prefer. Man has  
life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will  
be given him. For vast is the  
wisdom of the Lord; he is  
almighty and all-seeing. His eyes  
are on those who fear him, he  
notes every action of man. He  
never commanded anyone to be  
godless, he has given no one  
permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34**

*Happy are they who follow the  
law of the Lord!*

They are happy whose life is  
blameless, who follow God's law!  
They are happy who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts.

**R**

You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care. May my  
footsteps be firm to obey your  
statutes. **R**

Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may see  
the wonders of your law. **R**

Teach me the demands of your  
statutes and I will keep them to  
the end. Train me to observe your  
law, to keep it with my heart. **R**

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those  
who have reached maturity: not a  
philosophy of our age, it is true,  
still less of the masters of our age,  
which are coming to their end.  
The hidden wisdom of God which  
we teach in our mysteries is the  
wisdom that God predestined to  
be for our glory before the ages  
began. It is a wisdom that none of  
the masters of this age have ever  
known, or they would not have  
crucified the Lord of Glory; we  
teach what scripture calls: the  
things that no eye has seen and no  
ear has heard, things beyond the  
mind of man, all that God has  
prepared for those who love him.  
These are the very things that God  
has revealed to us through the  
Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the  
depths of everything, even the  
depths of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf Matthew 11:25**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of  
heaven and earth; you have  
revealed to little ones the  
mysteries of the kingdom.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell  
you, if your virtue goes no deeper  
than that of the scribes and  
Pharisees, you will never get into  
the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was  
said to our ancestors: You must  
not kill; and if anyone does kill he  
must answer for it before the  
court. But I say this to you:  
anyone who is angry with his  
brother will answer for it before  
the court.

'You have learnt how it was  
said: You must not commit  
adultery. But I say this to you: if a  
man looks at a woman lustfully,  
he has already committed adultery  
with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it  
was said to our ancestors: You  
must not break your oath, but  
must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.  
But I say this to you: do not swear  
at all. All you need say is "Yes" if  
you mean yes, "No" if you mean  
no; anything more than this comes  
from the evil one.'

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 77: 29-30**

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord  
gave them; they were not  
disappointed in what they craved.

**Parish Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Good  
Shepherd of our souls, life laid  
down for humankind, you rose  
again to lead us to pasture that  
consoles, our hearts renewed in  
you we find.

Lord Jesus Christ, Good  
Shepherd of our souls, life's  
dark valleys you tame, and so  
we praise your tender care,  
your voice that calls by name,  
your mercy seeking, when stray  
we dare.

Lord Jesus Christ, Good  
Shepherd of our souls, make  
our parish a home of peace and  
grace, so that lifted from our  
lowliness, our hearts may know  
your warm embrace, our souls  
emboldened, now with

holiness.

**Amen**