

5th Sunday of Lent
PROPER MASS

Commemoration of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Ephrem

For the parish church of the Most Holy Redeemer in Taybeh

The stay of the Lord in Ephrem (which has often been identified with the village of Taybeh, twenty miles northeast of Jerusalem) is related to us by St. John (11: 54). It is for him a moment of respite before the grand act of salvation that was to be accomplished in Jerusalem.

The liturgy today invites us to seek the presence of Christ who wants to be with us, and to recognize him through faith and love: "The Lord remained there with his disciples" (John 11: 54).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: John 11: 54b-55a

Now as the Passover of the Jews was near, the Lord left for the region near the desert, to a town called Ephraim, and there he remained with his disciples.

COLLECT

Almighty God, today we celebrate the memory of your Son's stay here, and we pray: make us aware of His presence in us through faith and love, and grant us to live one day forever with Him in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ..

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Isaiah 35: 1-2. 4. 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 31: 8-9a, 12. 14. 15-16 (R. 3bc)

R. Be a rock of refuge for me, a mighty stronghold to save me.

1. Let me be glad and rejoice in your mercy,
for you who have seen my affliction
and taken heed of my soul's distress,
have not left me in the hands of the enemy.

2. Because of all my foes
I have become a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends.

3. I have heard the slander of the crowd;
terror all around me,
as they plot together against me,
as they plan to take my life.

[11]
[SEP]
4. But as for me, I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God. My lot is in your hands,
deliver me from the hands of my enemies
and those who pursue me."

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

1: 1-5

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life, for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us, what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete. Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 22: 28-29a

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John

11: 53-57

So from the day on that Jesus had resurrected Lazarus, the Jews planned to kill him. So Jesus no longer walked about in public among them, but he left for the region near the desert, to a town called Ephraim, 13 and there he remained with his disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before Passover to purify 14 themselves. They looked for Jesus and said to one another as they were in the temple area, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast?" For the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should inform them, so that they might arrest him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, we offer you the sacrifice of salvation and we beseech you: grant us to follow in the footsteps of your Son and always remain in his love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Your love for the world is so big that you have sent us a saviour, you wanted him to be like men in all things except sin, in order to love in us what you loved in him: we had broken thy covenant, we found it again in the obedience of your Son.

Therefore, Lord, with the angels and all the saints, we proclaim your glory, singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rev 2: 7

To the victor I will give the right to eat from the tree of life that is in the garden of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord through this Eucharist where we have had communion, give us the strength to walk according to our Christian vocation and do that one day ceasing to be pilgrims on earth, we may reach our true home and join into the beatitudes of heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Other readings to choose from:

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Genesis

28: 10-22

Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot.

Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it.

And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: "I, the LORD, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, "Truly, the LORD is in this spot, although I did not know it!" In solemn wonder he cried out: "How awesome is this shrine! This is nothing else but an abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven!" Early the next morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on top of it. He called that site Bethel, whereas the former name of the town had been Luz. Jacob then made this vow: "If God remains with me, to protect me on this journey I am making and to give me enough bread to eat and clothing to wear, and I come back safe to my father's house, the LORD shall be my God. This stone that I have set up as a memorial stone shall be God's abode. Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you."

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

or else:

A reading from the Book of Revelation

3: 19-22.

Those whom I love, I reprove and chastise. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.