

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

A reading from Daniel.

¹In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon,
Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed.
Then he wrote down the dream:

²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night
the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea,

³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me.
¹⁶I approached one of the attendants to inquire concerning the truth of all this. So the attendant agreed to disclose to me the interpretation of the matter:
¹⁷"As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth.
¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the dominion forever—forever and ever."

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 149

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11-23

A reading from Ephesians.

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to divine counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. ¹³In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of God's great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand of Power in the heavenly places,
²¹far above all rule and authority and might and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
²²And God has put all things under the feet of Christ and has made him the head over all things for the church,
²³which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

20 Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:
"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the dominion of God.
21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son-of-Man.
²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.
²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.
"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷"But I say to you who are listening:
Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you;
²⁸bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.
²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also,
and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.
³⁰Give to everyone who asks of you,
and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again.
³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you."

The gospel of the Lord.