

FIRST READING
A reading from The Song of Songs

I hear my Beloved.
See how he comes
leaping on the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My Beloved is like a gazelle,
like a young stag.
See where he stands
behind our wall.

He looks in at the window,
he peers through the lattice.
My Beloved lifts up his voice,
he says to me,

'Come then, my love,
my lovely one, come.
My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock.
In the coverts of the cliff, show me your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet
and your face is beautiful.'
My beloved is mine and I am his.

Set me like a seal on your heart,
like a seal on your arm.
For love is strong as Death,
jealousy relentless as Sheol.
The flash of it is a flash of fire,
a flame of the Lord himself.

Love no flood can quench,
no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.
R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

R: How good is the Lord to all.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

R: How good is the Lord to all.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

R: How good is the Lord to all.

SECOND READING

A reading from The Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.
And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love,
I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy,
understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything,
and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains,
but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece,
and if I even let them take my body to burn it,
but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous,
love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish,
it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth,
it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,
and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God is love;
let us love one another
as God has loved us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R: And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again?
It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out
to be trampled underfoot by men.'

You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden.
No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub;
they put it on the lamp-stand
where it shines for everyone in the house.

In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men,
so that, seeing your good works,
they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Fr. Stephen Langridge

THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

HYMN

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold
Bring me my arrows of desire
Bring me my spear, O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire.