

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (4: 9-12)

Better two than one by himself, since their work is really profitable. If one should fall, the other helps him out; but woe to the man by himself with no one to help him up when he falls down. Again: they keep warm who sleep two together, but how can a man keep warm alone? Where one alone would be overcome, two will put up resistance.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32:12 18.20-22 R. v.5.

The Lord fills the earth with his love.

1. They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.
2. Our soul is waiting for the Lord
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.
3. May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (12:31
- 13:8)

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

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

Glory to you, O Lord

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Suanne and Philip declare their freedom to marry, their consent, exchange marriage vows, and exchange rings.

HYMN

1. *Oh Lord, my God*

When I, in awesome wonder

Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder

Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Chorus. *Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee*

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

2. *And when I think that God, His Son not sparing*

Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing

He bled and died to take away my sin

3. *When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation*

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart

Then I shall bow, in humble adoration

And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art