

## COLLECT: (Remain Standing)

God of all nations; Raise up in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that like your servant Francis Xavier we may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 1:21-31 (*Please be seated*)

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

How the faithful city

has become a whore!

She that was full of justice,  
righteousness lodged in her—  
but now murderers!

Your silver has become dross,  
your wine is mixed with water.

Your princes are rebels  
and companions of thieves.

Everyone loves a bribe  
and runs after gifts.

They do not defend the orphan,  
and the widow's cause does not come before them.

Therefore says the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts,  
the Mighty One of Israel:

Ah, I will pour out my wrath on my enemies,  
and avenge myself on my foes!

I will turn my hand against you;  
I will smelt away your dross as with lye  
and remove all your alloy.

And I will restore your judges as at the first,  
and your counsellors as at the beginning.

Afterwards you shall be called the city of  
righteousness, the faithful city.

Zion shall be redeemed by justice,  
and those in her who repent, by  
righteousness.

But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed  
together,  
and those who forsake the Lord shall be  
consumed.

For you shall be ashamed of the oaks  
in which you delighted;  
and you shall blush for the gardens  
that you have chosen.

For you shall be like an oak  
whose leaf withers,  
and like a garden without water.  
The strong shall become like tinder,  
and their work like a spark;  
they and their work shall burn together,  
with no one to quench them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

# Psalm

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 6**.

1 Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; \*  
do not punish me in your wrath.

2 Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak; \*  
heal me, Lord, for my bones are racked.

3 My spirit shakes with terror; \*  
how long, O Lord, how long?

4 Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; \*  
save me for your mercy's sake.

5 For in death no one remembers you; \*  
and who will give you thanks in the grave?

6 I grow weary because of my groaning; \*  
every night I drench my bed

and flood my couch with tears.

7 My eyes are wasted with grief \*  
and worn away because of all my enemies.

8 Depart from me, all evildoers, \*  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my  
weeping.

9 The Lord has heard my supplication; \*  
the Lord accepts my prayer.

10 All my enemies shall be confounded and  
quake with fear; \*  
they shall turn back and suddenly be put to  
shame.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the book of 1st Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 20:9-18** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

He began to tell the people this parable: 'A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, "What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him." But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, "This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours." So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.' When they heard this, they said, 'Heaven forbid!' But he looked at them and said, 'What then does this text mean:

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone"?

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**