

## COLLECT: (Remain Standing)

Gracious God, whose service is perfect freedom and in whose commandments there is nothing harsh nor burdensome: Grant that we, with your servant Benedict, may listen with attentive minds, pray with fervent hearts, and serve you with willing hands, so that we live at peace with one another and in obedience to your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: 1 Samuel 15:24-35 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the First book of Samuel.

Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord.' Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.' As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. And Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbour of yours, who is better than you. Moreover, the Glory of Israel will not recant or change his mind; for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind.' Then Saul said, 'I have sinned; yet honour me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God.' So Samuel turned back after Saul; and Saul worshipped the Lord.

Then Samuel said, 'Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.' And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, 'Surely this is the bitterness of death.' But Samuel said, 'As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women.'

And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 6

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

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.

## **Acts 9:32-43** *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the book of **Acts**.

Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralysed. Peter said to him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!' And immediately he got up. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 23:56-24:11** *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

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

Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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