

COLLECT

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126*In convertendo**Read responsively by whole verse.*

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 *Then was our mouth filled with laughter, **
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 *The Lord has done great things for us, **
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 *Those who sowed with tears **
will reap with songs of joy.

7 *Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, **
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Prayers of the People

Adapted from the Church of England

Priest: With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father. For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray especially for our bishops, priests, and deacons. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For those preparing for baptism and confirmation; especially Ivy, Morgan, Fiona, Cassidy, James, and Ellen, and for their teachers and sponsors. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For peace in our nation and in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer. We pray especially for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For those whom we have injured or offended. We name these people silently or aloud. (Silence is held) Let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God. Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Deacon: In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness, we pray for the dead, in whose memory the altar flowers are given, and today's Mass is said. We also name our dead loved ones close to our heart today silently or aloud. (Silence is held). Lord of compassion, **All: *in your mercy hear us.***

Priest: God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: *Amen.***