

Feast of St. James

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: Help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (45: 1-5)

The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, 'Woe is me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.' Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted - that is, the whole land. And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the LORD; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go.'

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the/ fortunes of/ Zion :
then were we like/ those who/ re-/new their/ strength.

Then shall our mouth be/ filled with/ laughter :
and our/ tongue with/ songs of/ joy.

Then said they a-/mong the/ nations :

'The/ Lord has done/ great things/ for them.'

The Lord has indeed done/ great things/ for us :

and/ therefore/ we re-/joiced.

Restore again our/ fortunes, O/ Lord :

like when streams refresh the/ deserts/ of the/ south.

Those who/ sow in/ tears :

shall/ reap with/ songs of/ joy.

Those who go out weeping,* bearing the/ seed/ with them :

shall come again with gladness, as he/ brings/ home his/ sheaves.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (11:27 - 12:2)

Some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew (20: 20-28)

Glory to you O Lord

The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ