

Gregroy the Great

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3.(6-10)11-14

⁶Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 34.11-17

Refrain: The Lord hears the righteous and delivers them out of all their troubles.

- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
12 Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?
13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.
14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

R: The Lord hears the righteous and delivers them out of all their troubles.

- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.
16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.

Refrain: The Lord hears the righteous and delivers them out of all their troubles.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 2.3-8

³Our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but 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. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So 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.

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5.13-19

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them: ¹³'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city

built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

pure in heart, for they will see God.

THE COLLECT

Merciful Father, who chose your bishop Gregory to be a servant of the servants of God: grant that, like him, we may ever long to serve you by proclaiming your gospel to the nations, and may ever rejoice to sing your praises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All Amen.