

COLLECT Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Saviour Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvellous works; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSON**JEREMIAH 3:10–4:4**

“YET FOR ALL THIS HER FALSE SISTER JUDAH DID NOT RETURN TO ME WITH HER whole heart, but in pretense, says the LORD.”¹¹ And the LORD said to me, “Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah.”¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, ‘Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be angry for ever.’¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, says the LORD.¹⁴ Return, O faithless children, says the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the LORD, they shall no more say, “The ark of the covenant of the LORD.” It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; it shall not be made again.¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.¹⁹ I thought how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me.²⁰ Surely, as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel, says the LORD.”²¹ A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel’s sons because they have perverted their way, they have forgotten the LORD their God.²² “Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to thee; for thou art the LORD our God.”²³ Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.²⁴ “But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.”²⁵ Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our

God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day; and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God." 4:1 "If you return, O Israel, says the LORD, to me you should return. If you remove your abominations from my presence, and do not waver, 2 and if you swear, 'As the LORD lives,' in truth, in justice, and in uprightness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." 3 For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. 4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your doings."

PSALM 130

REFRAIN



With the Lord there is mer-cy; with him there



is plen-te-ous re - demp - tion.

- 1 Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD; *
Lord, hear my voice.
- 2 O let thine ears consider well *
the voice of my complaint.
- 3 If thou, LORD, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who may abide it?
- 4 For there is mercy with thee; *
therefore shalt thou be feared.
- 5 I look for the LORD; my soul doth wait for him; *
in his word is my trust.
- 6 My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; *
I say, before the morning watch.

- 7 O Israel, trust in the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy, *
and with him is plenteous redemption.
- 8 And he shall redeem Israel *
from all his sins.

THE EPISTLE

I CORINTHIANS 7:17-24

LET EVERY ONE LEAD THE LIFE WHICH THE LORD HAS ASSIGNED TO HIM, AND IN which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 18 Was any one at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was any one at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. 19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. 20 Every one should remain in the state in which he was called. 21 Were you a slave when called? Never mind. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 So, brethren, in whatever state each was called, there let him remain with God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

ST. MARK 1:14-20

NOW AFTER JOHN WAS ARRESTED, JESUS CAME INTO GALILEE, PREACHING THE gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." 16 And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.