

Sentence

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

John 1.1

Prayer of the day

Shed upon your Church, O Lord,
the brightness of your light,
so that we, being illumined by the teaching
of John the evangelist,
may walk in the light of your truth,
and be brought to the fullness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Prov. 8:22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth — when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97 — *A.P.B.A. Page 324*

1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.
3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
7 They are ashamed all those who serve idols
and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
8 Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements O God.
9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.
11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
12 Rejoice in the Lord you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

Second Reading

1 Jn. 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of John

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.