

The First Lesson
Zechariah 9:9-12

Reader: A reading from Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 145:8-15

Read responsively by whole verse

Reader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

People: The Lord is loving to everyone and his compassion is over all his works.

Reader: All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

People: They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power;

Reader: That the peoples may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

People: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

Reader: The Lord is faithful in all his words and merciful in all his deeds.

People: The Lord upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.

Sung by all

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson
Romans 7:15-25a

Reader: A reading from Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ
our Lord!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand

Gospel Song

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Graham Kendrick

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land
with the Father's glory; Blaze, Spirit,
blaze set our hearts on fire. Flow, river,
flow, flood the nations with grace and
mercy; Send forth Your word, Lord, and
let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome
presence, From the shadows into Your
radiance; By the blood I may enter Your
brightness, search me, try me, consume
all my darkness. Shine on me, shine on
me.

Refrain

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness; Ever
changing from glory to glory, Mirrored
here may our lives tell Your story. Shine
on me, shine on me.

Refrain

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.