

A Celebration for

The Feast of St Francis



Sentence

You have loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

(Psalm 44: 2)

Opening Prayer or Collect

Year A

Almighty God,
Most high, omnipotent, good Lord,
grant your people
grace gladly to renounce the vanities of this world;
that, following the way of blessed Francis,
we may for love of you
delight in your whole creation with perfect joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

or

Father,
you helped Saint Francis to reflect the image of Christ
through a life of poverty and humility.
May we follow your Son
by walking in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi,
and by imitating his joyful love.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (ABC)

Old Testament: 1 Kings 8:22-30

A Reading from the First Book of Kings, Chapter 8 beginning at verse 22

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, ‘O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

‘But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 122 APBA p 360

- 1 I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
- 3 Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
- 4 There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.
- 7 Peace be within your walls
and prosperity in your palaces.
- 8 For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.

New Testament: Hebrews 12:18-24

A Reading from Hebrews, Chapter 12 beginning at verse 18

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, ‘If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.’ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, ‘I tremble with fear.’) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are

enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 21:12-16

*A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,
Chapter 21, beginning at verse 12* **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written,

“My house shall be called a house of prayer”;

but you are making it a den of robbers.’

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’, they became angry and said to him, ‘Do you hear what these are saying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; have you never read,

“Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies

you have prepared praise for yourself”?’

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ