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A READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF MICAH

In the future, the mountain with the Lord's temple will be the highest of all. It will reach above the hills, and every nation will rush to it. People of many nations will come and say, "Let's go up to the mountain of the Lord God of Jacob and worship in his temple." The Lord will teach us his Law from Jerusalem, and we will obey him. He will settle arguments between distant and powerful nations. They will pound their swords and their spears into rakes and shovels; they will never again make war or attack one another. Everyone will find rest beneath their own fig trees or grape vines, and they will live in peace. This is a solemn promise of the Lord All-Powerful. Others may follow their gods, but we will always follow the Lord our God.

(Micah 4. 1-5 | CEV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thank be to God.

THE PSALM APPOINTED FOR TODAY IS PSALM 46; AND THE RESEPONSE IS: **R/. The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

The God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
Though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas. **R/.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; God shall help her at the break of day. The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R/.**

Come and behold the works of the Lord, what destruction he has wrought upon the earth. He makes wars to cease in all the world; he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire. 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.' The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R/.**

A READING FROM SAINT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? It is exactly as the Scriptures say, "For you we are in danger of death all the time. People think we are worth no more than sheep to be killed." In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love - not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

(Romans 8. 31-end | CEV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
Love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of our Christ according to Saint John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So, remain faithful to my love for you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am. Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. And you are my friends, if you obey me. Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me.

You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. So, I command you to love each other.

(John 15. 9-17 | CEV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.