

Psalm

My Soul Longs for the Courts of the LORD

- ¹How lovely is your | dwelling place,*
O | LORD of hosts!
- ²My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts | of the LORD;*
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the | living God.
- ³Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may | lay her young,*
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King | and my God.
- ⁴Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!
- ⁵Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.
- ⁶As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a | place of springs;*
the early rain also covers | it with pools.
- ⁷They go from | strength to strength;*
each one appears before God in | Zion.
- ⁸O LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;*
give ear, O God of | Jacob!
- ⁹Behold our shield, | O God;*
look on the face of your a- | noointed!
- ¹⁰For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand | elsewhere.*
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.
- ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- | rightly.
- ¹²O | LORD of hosts,*
blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28:10–17

Jacob's Dream

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Gradual

Psalms 141:1–2

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten | to me!*

Give ear to my voice when I | call to you!

Let my prayer be counted as incense be- | fore you,*

and the lifting up of my hands as the evening | sacrifice!

Epistle

Ephesians 4:22–28

²²Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:1–8

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹Getting into a boat [Jesus] crossed over and came to his own city. ²And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “**Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.**” ³And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “**Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**” —he then said to the paralytic—“**Rise, pick up your bed and go home.**” ⁷And he rose and went home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Acknowledgments

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