

## Reading

*Esther 13:9-11, 15-17*

**L** A reading from the Additions to Esther, chapter 13.

In those days [Mordecai] prayed to the Lord, saying: “O Lord God, King who rules over all things, for the universe is in Your power and there is no one who can oppose You when it is Your will to save Israel, You have made heaven and earth and every wonderful thing in it under heaven, and You are Lord of all, and there is no one who can resist You, the Lord. And now, O Lord God and King of kings, God of Abraham, spare Your people; for they are looking to annihilate us, and they desire to destroy the inheritance that has been Yours from the beginning. Do not neglect Your portion, which You redeemed for Yourself out of the land of Egypt. Hear my prayer and have mercy upon Your allotment and turn our mourning into feasting, that we may live and sing praise to Your name, O Lord; do not destroy the mouth of those who praise You.” our God.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*Matthew 20:17–28*

**L** A reading from Matthew, chapter 20.

At that time: Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.” Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to

Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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