



Entrance Antiphon
Cf. Mt 25:34

Rejoice, you Saints, in the presence of the Lamb; a kingdom has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world, Alleluia.

or: **Ps 90:13**

On the asp and the viper you will tread, and trample the young lion and the dragon, Alleluia.

The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is said or sung

Collect

God of hosts, who so kindled the fire of charity in the heart of Saint George your martyr, that he bore witness to the risen Lord both by his life and by his death; grant us through his intercession, we pray, the same faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in his triumph may be led to share with him in the fullness of the resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First reading **Revelation 12:10-12a**
'They loved not their lives even unto death.'

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R5

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy. R

Then they said among the nations, 'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!' What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. R

Bring back our exiles, O Lord, as streams in the Negeb. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R

They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves. R

Second reading **2 Timothy 2:8-13; 3:10-12**
'All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.'

A reading from the Second Letter of St Timothy

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself. You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra — which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation before the Gospel **James 1:12**

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life. Alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.

Glory ✠ to ✠ you, ✠ O Lord.

Either **Luke 9:23-26**

'Whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it.' At that time: Jesus said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.'

or **John 15:18-21**

'You are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world.' At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.'

or **John 15:1-8**

'Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.' At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch, and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The CREED is said

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise, which we offer to your majesty in commemoration of the blessed Martyr Saint George, that it may lead us to forgiveness and confirm us in constant thanksgiving. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon **Cf. 2 Tim 2:11-12**

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him, Alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Rejoicing on this festival day, O Lord, we have received your heavenly gifts; grant, we pray, that we who in this divine banquet proclaim the death of your Son may merit with Saint George to be partakers in his resurrection and glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A suitable Blessing

Let us pray for God's blessing
God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and love and steadfastness. **Amen.**
May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son,
✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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SUITABLE HYMNS



I vow to thee, my country,
all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country
I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness
and all her paths are peace.

Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1914) © Public Domain

He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight;
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
us with Thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

*John Bunyan (1628-1688), adapted by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)
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When a knight won his spurs, in the stories of old,
he was gentle and brave, he was gallant and bold
with a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,
for God and for valour he rode through the land.

No charger have I, and no sword by my side,
yet still to adventure and battle I ride,
though back into storyland giants have fled,
and the knights are no more
and the dragons are dead.

Let faith be my shield and let joy be my steed
'gainst the dragons of anger, the ogres of greed;
and let me set free with the sword of my youth,
from the castle of darkness, the power of the truth.

*Jan Struther (1901-1953)
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