

EIGHTH SUNDAY



A reading from the prophet Hosea

I will betroth you to me for ever.

Thus says the Lord:

I am going to lure her
and lead her out into the wilderness
and speak to her heart.
There she will respond to me
as she did when she was young,
as she did when she came out of the land of Egypt.
I will betroth you to myself for ever,
betroth you with integrity and justice,
with tenderness and love;
I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness,
and you will come to know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 102:1-4.8.10.12-13

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

So far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading † 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

You are a letter from Christ for us to deliver.

Unlike other people, we need no letters of recommendation either to you or from you, because you are yourselves our letter, written in our hearts, that anybody can see and read, and it is plain that you are a letter from Christ, drawn up by us, and written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on the tablets of your living hearts.

Before God, we are confident of this through Christ: not that we are qualified in ourselves to claim anything as our own work: all our qualifications come from God. He is the one who has given us the qualifications to be the administrators of this new covenant, which is not a covenant of written letters but of the Spirit: the written letters bring death, but the Spirit gives life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Mark 2:18-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The bridegroom is still with them.

One day when John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, some people came and said to Jesus,

'Why is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?'

Jesus replied,

'Surely the bridegroom's attendants would never think of fasting while the bridegroom is still with them?

'As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they could not think of fasting. But the time will come for the bridegroom to be taken away from them, and then, on that day, they will fast.

'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; if he does, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse.

'And nobody puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins too. No! New wine, fresh skins!'

The Gospel of the Lord.