

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8th June 2008

### First Reading

Hos. 6:1-6

#### A reading from the prophet Hosea

*What I want is love, not sacrifice, says the Lord.*

“Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps.50(49)

**Response:** *To the upright I will show the saving power of God.*

1. The God of gods, the Lord,  
has spoken and summoned the earth,  
from the rising of the sun to its  
setting.

I find no fault with your sacrifices,  
your offerings are always before me.

**R.**

2. 'Were I hungry, I would not tell  
you,  
for I own the world and all its holds.  
Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,  
or drink the blood of goats?

**R.**

3. 'Pay your sacrifice of thanksgiving  
to God  
and render him your votive offerings.  
Call on me in the day of distress.

I will free you and you shall honour  
me.'

**R.**

### Second Reading

Rom. 4:13-25

#### A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

*He drew strength from his faith while giving glory to God.*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his

descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor,  
and freedom to prisoners. **Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mtt. 9:9-13

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*I did not come to call the just, but sinners.*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

For the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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