



Those gathered begin with the Sign of the Cross, saying:

✠ Let the hearts that seek the Lord, rejoice.

Psalm 136:1–3, 4–6, 7–9

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever;
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his mercy endures forever;

Who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who made the heavens in wisdom,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures forever.

Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures forever,
The sun to rule in the day,
for his mercy endures forever,
The moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his mercy endures forever.

Reading

Exodus 32:7–11, 13–14

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once to your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it, sacrificing to it and crying out, ‘This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’” The LORD said to Moses, “I see how stiff-necked this people is. Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation.”

Reflection

The relationship between God and the people of the covenant takes the form of a cycle: God calls them to be faithful, they become unfaithful; God proclaims a punishment, the people repent, and God relents of the punishment. This plays out in today’s reading. As people of the new covenant, the cycle is similar. We are not always faithful to the commands of the Lord. How will the Lord deal with us? The answer is found in the Lord’s unbelievable love for us and his desire to forgive us. We are truly blessed.

Prayers

others may be added

We place ourselves in your love, O Lord, and pray:

◆ Faithful God, hear our prayer.

That leaders of nations find the courage to restore justice to those who have been persecuted, we pray: ◆ That leaders in the Church find ways to restore trust among those who have been abused, we pray: ◆ That prodigal penitents find their way back to the mercy of the Father, we pray: ◆ That sins of the past not hold us back from a renewed union with the Lord, we pray: ◆

Gathering these and all unspoken prayers into one, we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . .

Almighty God,
you have called your people into a covenant of fidelity and justice.

Grant us forgiveness when we are unfaithful,
and relent of the punishment we justly deserve.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Making the Sign of the Cross, saying:

✠ Let the hearts that seek the Lord, rejoice.