

19TH MARCH
SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over his household.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. 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. R. Amen.

FIRST READING *(The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.)*

A reading from the second Book of Samuel (2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16)

The Lord spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.'" —The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29*)

R. The son of David will live for ever.

- ✧ The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness, For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. (*R*)
- ✧ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.” (*R*)
- ✧ “He shall say of me, ‘You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.’ Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.” (*R*)

SECOND READING (*Abraham believed, hoping against hope.*)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (*Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22*)

Brothers and sisters: It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith. For this reason, it depends on faith, so that it may be a gift, and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not to those who only adhere to the law but to those who follow the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us, as it is written, *I have made you father of many nations*. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not exist. He believed, hoping against hope, that he would become *the father of many nations*, according to what was said, *Thus shall your descendants be*. That is why *it was credited to him as righteousness*. —The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Ps 84:5*)

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house, O Lord; they
never cease to praise you. (*R*)

GOSPEL (*Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
(*1:16,18-21,24a*)

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but
before they lived together, she was found with child
through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was
a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention
when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to
take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the
Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She
will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he
will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and
took his wife into his home. —The Gospel of the Lord.

The Creed is said.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We pray, O Lord, that, just as Saint Joseph served with
loving care your Only Begotten Son, born of the Virgin
Mary, so we may be worthy to minister with a pure heart
at your altar. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

PREFACE (*The mission of Saint Joseph*)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph to give you fitting praise, to glorify you and bless you.

For this just man was given by you as spouse to the Virgin Mother of God and set as a wise and faithful servant in charge of your household to watch like a father over your Only Begotten Son, who was conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy. (*Mt 25:21*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Defend with unfailing protection, O Lord, we pray, the family you have nourished with food from this altar, as they rejoice at the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, and graciously keep safe your gifts among them. Through Christ our Lord.

