

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord;
in a time of favor I have answered you,
 on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you
 as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
 to apportion the desolate heritages;

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,
 my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her nursing child,
 or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
 yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
 your walls are continually before me.

The Word of the Lord

St. John

A reading from the first letter of St. John

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not
know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:
when he is revealed,
we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

People were bringing little children to him in order
that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

But when Jesus saw this,
he was indignant and said to them,

“Let the children come to me; do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
Truly I tell you,
whoever does not receive the kingdom of God
as a little child will never enter it.”

And he took them up in his arms,
laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord