

## Introit

*Psalm 111:1–5, 9; antiphon: v. 10*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.\*

His praise endures for- | ever!

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,\*

in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.

Great are the works | of the LORD,\*

studied by all who de- | light in them.

Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,\*

and his righteousness endures for- | ever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;\*

the LORD is gracious and | merciful.

He provides food for those who | fear him;\*

he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*

Holy and awesome | is his name!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.\*

His praise endures for- | ever!

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Gradual

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*

for those who fear him lack | nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*

but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

## Old Testament

*Proverbs 9:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her young women to call  
from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup>“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

To him who lacks sense she says,

<sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup>Leave your simple ways, and live,

and walk in the way of insight.”

<sup>7</sup>Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse,  
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

<sup>8</sup>Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;  
reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

<sup>9</sup>Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

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## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:6–21*

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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## Holy Gospel

*John 6:51–69*

<sup>51</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”