INSEPARABLE: FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Suggestions for readings and propers at celebrations of Mass during the week

For Tuesday: Friends with Jesus

**Collect**

Eternal God,

you draw near to us in Christ

and make yourself our guest.

Amid the cares of our daily lives,

make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence,

that we may treasure your friendship above all else.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

**First Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans *(8.31-39)*

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can beagainst us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
    we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Psalm** *(32)*

*R.)* **May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. ***(R.)***

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. ***(R.)***

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. ***(R.)***

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I call you friends, says the Lord, for I have made known to you all that I learnt from my Father.

Alleluia.

**Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John *(15.9-17)*

Jesus said: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us,

and nourish us with the bread from heaven.

As we share these holy gifts, show us our unity in you

and grant us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord God,

draw us closer to you and one another,

so that through the love we share as friends

we may know your love from which we can never be parted,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Wednesday: Friends with Mary

**Collect**

Gracious God,

your handmaid Mary shared the Good News of salvation with her cousin Elizabeth.

Grant that, like Mary, we may hear your word and keep it

until we come to share in the life of heaven with Christ your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

**First Reading**

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah *(3.14-18)*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
    shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
    O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you;  
    he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
    you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
    let not your hands grow weak.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
    a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
    he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
    so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

The word of the Lord

**Psalm** *Isaiah 12*

***R/.*****Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation,

 I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,

 he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

 from the wells of salvation. **R/.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. ***R/.***

Sing a psalm to the Lord

 for he has done glorious deeds;

 make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,

 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. ***R/.***

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is the Virgin Mary, who believed

that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

May our offering of this saving sacrifice

be acceptable to your majesty, O Lord,

as you were pleased to accept the love

of the most Blessed Mother of your Only Begotten Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord God,

draw us closer to you and one another,

so that through the love we share as friends

we may know your love from which we can never be parted,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Thursday: Friends with each other

**Collect**

God our Father,

whose Son enjoyed the love of his friends.

Grant us your spirit of unity,

that we show to the world

the depths of your wisdom, the wonder of your compassion,

and your power to bring life out of death;

through the merits of Jesus Christ,

our friend and brother,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

**First Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans *(12. 9-16)*

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

The word of the Lord.

**Psalm 133**

***R/.*****Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Behold how good and pleasant it is

to dwell together in unity.

It is like the precious oil upon the head,

running down upon the beard,

Even on Aaron’s beard,

running down upon the collar of his clothing. ***R/.***

It is like the dew of Hermon

running down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has promised his blessing:

even life for evermore. ***R/.***

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I call you friends, says the Lord, for I have made known to you all that I learnt from my Father.

Alleluia.

**Gospel**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John *(21.15-19)*

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us,

and nourish us with the bread from heaven.

As we share these holy gifts, show us our unity in you

and grant us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord God,

draw us closer to you and one another,

so that through the love we share as friends

we may know your love from which we can never be parted,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.