

MASS – BL JOSEPH GERARD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Isaiah 52:7)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace, joy, and salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

God, Source of peace
and giver of rain and abundance,
who called Blessed Joseph Gerard, your priest,
to bring the light of the Gospel
to the peoples of southern Africa;
grant that through his intercession
we may share his love for the poor
and work for peace and reconciliation in the world.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALTERNATIVE: God, Source of peace
and giver of rain and abundance,
who called Blessed Joseph Gerard, your priest,
to bring the light of the Gospel
to the peoples of southern Africa;
grant through his prayers, that we may
treasure the gift of faith we have received,
share it with our brothers and sisters,
and work for peace and reconciliation in the world.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 52:7-10 (*Common of Pastors*)

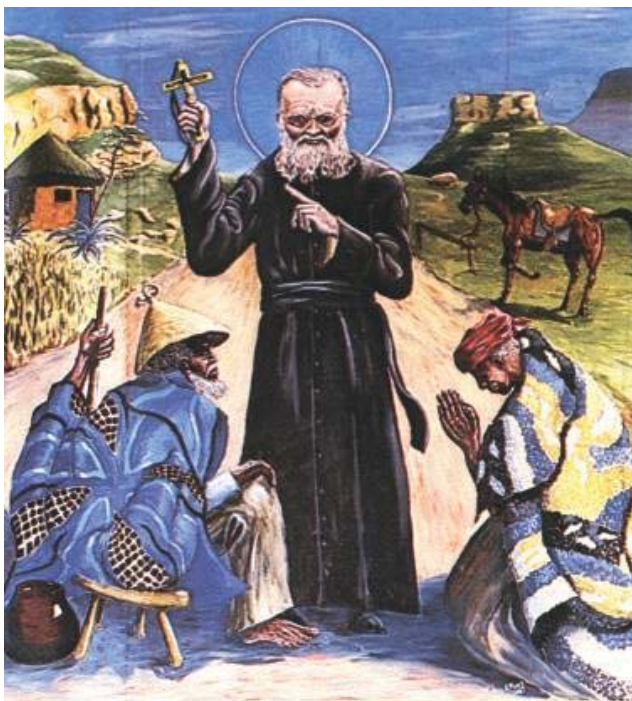
How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is King!"

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*The Word
of the Lord.*

b.1831 – d.1914



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 15)

**R/. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel.
Who even at night directs my heart.**

(or for Easter: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**)

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: "You are my God."

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize. **R/.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight;
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R/.**

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R/.**



SECOND READING 2 Cor 5:14-20

He gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work.

It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God.

The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.

GOSPEL (Mark 16: 15-20)

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news.

Jesus showed himself to the eleven, and he said to them: "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers; in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover."

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven; there at the right hand of God he took his place while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

INTERCESSIONS

On this memorial of Bl Joseph Gerard, let us turn to God, our Father, aware of our many needs and confident in his unfailing providence.

*Bl Joseph Gerard was committed to preaching the Good News of salvation to the poor and most abandoned: let us pray that today's Oblate missionaries may tirelessly remain with their people and love them no matter what. **Lord, hear us.**

*Bl Joseph Gerard was faithful to the end of his life to his Oblate community. Let us also imitate his love for God expressed through our willingness to suffer for the good of others. **Lord, hear us.**

*Bl Joseph Gerard entrusted the needs and concerns of his people to our beloved Immaculate Mother and always prayed to her with confidence: let us pray, also, to our gentle Mother, and in her find constant strength and hope. **Lord, hear us.**



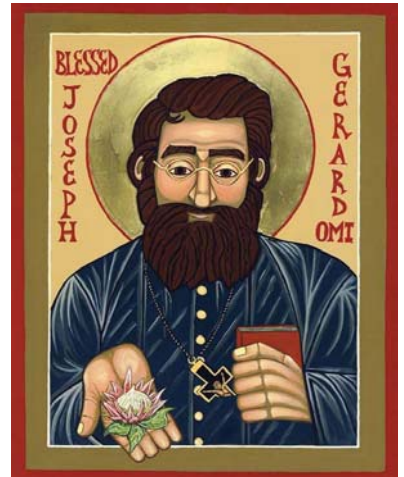
*Bl Joseph Gerard had a deep prayer life and worked hard against sin. May we too, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, increase our holiness so as to bring peace and reconciliation to our world. **Lord, hear us.**

*Bl Joseph Gerard sought the will of God: let us pray that we can find the presence of God in our daily activities that we may be ready for God's call at all times. **Lord, hear us.**

*Bl Joseph Gerard was always concerned for the sick: through his intercession and our presence, let us pray for those who are sick in our communities, families and ministries, that they may receive the healing touch of God. **Lord, hear us.**

LET US PRAY:

God of all goodness,
to you we offer our prayers as
we call upon the intercession of
BL. Joseph Gerard. Grant that
we may live for your glory by
helping our brothers and sisters.



We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father of mercy, we have these gifts to offer
in honour of Blessed Joseph Gerard
who bore witness to your mighty power.

May the power of the Eucharist
bring us your salvation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

PREFACE: *Holy Pastors in the Church*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Go out to all the world, and tell the good news;
I am with you always, says the Lord.

*(ALT: Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
He who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, BL Joseph Gerard worked tirelessly
for the faith, spending his life in its
service. With the power this
Eucharist gives, make your people
strong in the same true faith and
help us to proclaim it everywhere
by all we say and do.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

