

**FEBRUARY 19**

**BLESSED ELIZABETH PICENARDI  
SISTER SERVANT OF MARY • VIRGIN**

Memorial

**Entrance Antiphon**

cf Psalm 15 (16) 5-6

This is a wise virgin and one of the number of the prudent who went out with burning lamp to meet Christ.

**Prayer of the Assembly**

Lord, God,  
during her life on earth, Blessed Elizabeth  
enjoyed the special favour  
of the Mother of your Son.  
Now that she is with you in heaven,  
may her prayers help us to be  
devoted and grateful servants.  
(We ask this) through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**First Reading**

I Corinthians 7, 25-28, 32-35

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

*An unmarried woman is anxious about the things of the Lord*

Now, brothers and sisters, in regard to virgins,  
I have no commandment from the Lord,  
but I give my opinion  
as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.  
So this is what I think best because of the present distress:  
that it is a good thing for a person to remain as he is.  
Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek a separation.  
Are you free of a wife? Then do not look for a wife.  
If you marry, however, you do not sin,  
nor does an unmarried woman sin if she marries;  
but such people will experience affliction  
in their earthly life,  
and I would like to spare you that.  
I should like you to be free of anxieties.  
An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord,  
how he may please the Lord.  
But a married man is anxious about the things of the world,  
how he may please his wife, and he is divided.  
An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious  
about the things of the Lord,  
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.  
A married woman, on the other hand,  
is anxious about the things of the world,  
how she may please her husband.  
I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of

propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

### **This is the Word of the Lord**

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 44 (45),11-12, 14-15, 16-17

#### **R/. He is your Lord, pay homage to him**

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.  
So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your Lord, pay homage to him.

#### **R/. He is your Lord, pay homage to him**

The daughter of the king is clothed with splendor,  
her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.  
She is led to the king with her maiden companions.

#### **R/. He is your Lord, pay homage to him**

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.  
Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers:  
you will make them princes over all the earth.

#### **R/. He is your Lord, pay homage to him**

#### **Gospel Acclamation outside Lent**

cf. Matthew 25,10

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The wise virgin was ready when the Lord arrived,  
She went with him into the wedding feast. Alleluia.

#### **Gospel Acclamation during Lent**

cf. Matthew 25, 10

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
The wise virgin was ready when the Lord arrived,  
She went with him into the wedding feast.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

#### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 10, 38-42

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Martha welcomed him into her home. Mary has chosen the better part*

Jesus entered a village  
where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.  
She had a sister named Mary  
who sat beside the Lord at his feet  
listening to him speak.  
Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said,  
“Lord, do you not care  
that my sister has left me by myself

to do the serving?  
Tell her to help me.”  
The Lord said to her in reply,  
“Martha, Martha,  
you are anxious and worried about many things.  
There is need of only one thing.  
Mary has chosen the better part  
and it will not be taken from her.”

### **This is the Gospel of the Lord**

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Lord,  
may the gifts we offer be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.  
By the prayers of Blessed Elizabeth,  
may our hearts be freed of earthly passions,  
and filled with ardent desire  
for the bread of heaven.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

#### **Preface of Virgins**

*The signs of a life consecrated to God*

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.  
Today we honour your saints  
who consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.  
What love you show us  
as you recall humanity to its first innocence,  
and invite us to taste on earth  
the gifts of the world to come!  
Now with the saints and all the angels  
we praise you forever: Holy, Holy...

#### **Communion Antiphon**

Matthew 25. 6

The groom is here! Come and greet Christ the Lord.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord,  
nourished with the sacraments of the new covenant,  
fill us with that same Spirit  
that enlightened Blessed Elizabeth  
with the gift of prophecy  
and led her along the way of love  
to the heavenly banquet.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

**Note:** Some biblical texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>