

Readings: Feria

First Reading: 1 Mac 1:10-16, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64

[From the descendants of Alexander's officers]

there sprang a sinful offshoot, Antiochus Euphanes,
son of King Antiochus, once a hostage at Rome.
He became king in the year one hundred and thirty-seven

of the kingdom of the Greeks.

In those days there appeared in Israel
men who were breakers of the law,

and they seduced many people, saying:
"Let us go and make an alliance with the Gentiles all around us;
since we separated from them, many evils have come upon us."

The proposal was agreeable;
some from among the people promptly went to the king,
and he authorized them to introduce the way of living
of the Gentiles.

Thereupon they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem
according to the Gentile custom.
They covered over the mark of their circumcision
and abandoned the holy covenant;
they allied themselves with the Gentiles

and sold themselves to wrongdoing.

Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people,
each abandoning his particular customs.
All the Gentiles conformed to the command of the king,
and many children of Israel were in favor of his religion;

they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath.

On the fifteenth day of the month Chisleu,
in the year one hundred and forty-five,
the king erected the horrible abomination
upon the altar of burnt offerings
and in the surrounding cities of Judah they built pagan altars.
They also burned incense at the doors of the houses and in the streets.
Any scrolls of the law which they found they tore up and burnt.
Whoever was found with a scroll of the covenant,
and whoever observed the law,
was condemned to death by royal decree.
But many in Israel were determined
and resolved in their hearts not to eat anything unclean;
they preferred to die rather than to be defiled with unclean food
or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die.

Terrible affliction was upon Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158

R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Indignation seizes me because of the wicked
who forsake your law.

R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Though the snares of the wicked are twined about me,
your law I have not forgotten.

R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Redeem me from the oppression of men,
that I may keep your precepts.

R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

I am attacked by malicious persecutors
who are far from your law.
R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Far from sinners is salvation,
because they seek not your statutes.
R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

I beheld the apostates with loathing,
because they kept not to your promise.
R/ Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Gospel Reading: Lk 18:35-43

When Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road, begging. As he heard the crowd passing by, he inquired what it was, and they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going by. Then he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people in front scolded him, "Be quiet!" but he cried out all the more.

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the man said, "Lord, that I may see!" Jesus said, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." At once the blind man was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving praise to God. And all the people who were there also praised God.
