

# Readings: Feria

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: [Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25](#)

Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish,  
    had recourse to the Lord.  
She lay prostrate upon the ground, together with her handmaids,  
    from morning until evening, and said:  
"God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, blessed are you.  
Help me, who am alone and have no help but you,  
    for I am taking my life in my hand.  
As a child I used to hear from the books of my forefathers  
    that you, O Lord, always free those who are pleasing to you.  
Now help me, who am alone and have no one but you,  
    O Lord, my God.  
"And now, come to help me, an orphan.  
Put in my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the lion  
    and turn his heart to hatred for our enemy,  
    so that he and those who are in league with him may perish.  
Save us from the hand of our enemies;  
    turn our mourning into gladness  
  
    and our sorrows into wholeness.

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### Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8](#)

#### R/ Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart,  
    for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
    in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;  
I will worship at your holy temple  
    and give thanks to your name.

#### R/ Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Because of your kindness and your truth;  
    for you have made great above all things  
    your name and your promise.  
When I called, you answered me;  
    you built up strength within me.

#### R/ Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Your right hand saves me.  
The Lord will complete what he has done for me:  
    your kindness, O Lord, endures forever;  
    forsake not the work of your hands.

#### R/ Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

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### Gospel Reading: [Matthew 7:7-12](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Ask and it will be given to you;  
    seek and you will find;  
    knock and the door will be opened to you.  
For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds;  
    and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.  
Which one of you would hand his son a stone  
    when he asked for a loaf of bread,  
    or a snake when he asked for a fish?  
If you then, who are wicked,  
    know how to give good gifts to your children,  
    how much more will your heavenly Father give good things

to those who ask him.

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the law and the prophets."

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