

# Readings: Feria

**First Reading: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22**

Once in the time of the judges there was a famine in the land;  
so a man from Bethlehem of Judah  
departed with his wife and two sons  
to reside on the plateau of Moab.  
Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died,  
and she was left with her two sons, who married Moabite women,  
one named Orpah, the other Ruth.  
When they had lived there about ten years,  
both Mahlon and Chilion died also,  
and the woman was left with neither her two sons nor her husband.  
She then made ready to go back from the plateau of Moab  
because word reached her there  
that the Lord had visited his people and given them food.  
Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth stayed with her.  
Naomi said, "See now!  
Your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her god.  
Go back after your sister-in-law!"  
But Ruth said, "Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you!  
For wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge,  
your people shall be my people, and your God my God."  
Thus it was that Naomi returned  
with the Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth,  
who accompanied her back from the plateau of Moab.  
They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

---

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10**

**R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord, his God,  
Who made heaven and earth,

the sea and all that is in them.

**R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The Lord keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets captives free.  
**R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The Lord gives sight to the blind.  
The Lord raises up those who were bowed down;  
The Lord loves the just.

The Lord protects strangers.

**R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The Lord shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

**R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

---

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40**

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question, "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But after this there is another one very similar to it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments."

---