**FIRST READING Joel 2:21-27**

A reading from the book of Joel

“Fields, don't be afraid, but be joyful and glad because of all the Lord has done for you. Animals, don't be afraid. The pastures are green; the trees bear their fruit, and there are plenty of figs and grapes. “Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice at what the Lord your God has done for you. He has given you the right amount of autumn rain; he has poured down the winter rain for you and the spring rain as before. The threshing places will be full of grain; the pits beside the presses will overflow with wine and olive oil. I will give you back what you lost in the years when swarms of locusts ate your crops. It was I who sent this army against you. Now you will have plenty to eat, and be satisfied. You will praise the Lord your God, who has done wonderful things for you. My people will never be despised again. Then, Israel, you will know that I am among you and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. My people will never be despised again.

**PSALM 126**

**R** **Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

When the Lord brought us back to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! **R**

How we laughed, how we sang for joy! Then the other nations said about us, “The Lord did great things for them.” **R**

Indeed he did great things for us; how happy we were! **R**

Lord, make us prosperous again, just as the rain brings water back to dry riverbeds. **R**

Let those who wept as they planted their crops, gather the harvest with joy! **R**

Those who wept as they went out carrying the seed will come back singing for joy, as they bring in the harvest. **R**

**SECOND READING 1 Timothy 6 : 6-10**

A reading from the book of Timothy

Well, religion does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have. What did we bring into the world? Nothing! What can we take out of the world? Nothing! So then, if we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows.

**GOSPEL Matthew 6: 25-33**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

“This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer[c] by worrying about it? “And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! “So do not start worrying: ‘Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?’ (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**