

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.**

**He began to teach them, saying:**

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness,**

**for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely  
because of me.**

**Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**