

Scriptures: October 3, 2021

First Reading

Esther 4:14-17

Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. **14** For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." **15** Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, **16** "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." **17** Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

The Gospel

Matthew 26:26-28

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." **27** Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.