

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

You, YHWH, are our mother and father;
“Our Redeemer Forever” is your name.
YHWH, why do you let us wander from your ways
and let our hearts grow too hard to revere you?
Return to us for the sake of your children,
the tribes of your heritage!
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would shake before you!
As fire kindles the brushwood
and the fire makes water boil,
make your Name known to your adversaries,
and let the nations tremble before you!
When you did awesome things
that we could not have expected,
you came down,
and the mountains quaked in your presence!
From ages past no ear has ever heard,
no eye ever seen any God but you
intervening for those who wait for you!
Oh, that you would find us doing right,
that we would be mindful of you in our ways!
You are angry because we are sinful;
we sinned for so long — how can we be saved?
All of us became unclean and soiled,
even our good deeds are polluted.
We have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
No one calls upon your Name,
there are none who cling to you,
for you hid your face from us
and delivered us into the hands of our sins.
Yet, you are our mother and father, YHWH;
we are the clay and you are the potter,
we are all the work of your hands.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so confirmed among you that you lack

no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Savior Jesus Christ. God will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus, our Savior, is faithful.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

O God, show us your mercy, and give us your saving help.

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to the disciples: “Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come.

“It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to

stay on the alert. So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows, or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“Console my people, give them comfort,”
says YHWH.
“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem’s heart,
and tell it,
that its time of service is ended,
that its iniquity is atoned for,
that it has received from YHWH’s hand
double punishment for all its sins.”

A voice cries out:

“Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH!
Make straight road through the desert for YHWH!

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low;
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley!

Then the glory of YHWH will be revealed,
and all humankind will see it.”

The mouth of YHWH has spoken!

Go up on a high mountain,
you who bring good news to Zion!
Shout with a loud voice,
you who bring good news to Jerusalem!
Shout without fear,
and say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is YHWH!”

YHWH, O Sovereign One,
you come with power,
and rule with a strong arm!

You bring your reward with you,
and your reparation comes before you.

Like a shepherd you feed your flock,
gathering the lambs and holding them close,
and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

This point must not be overlooked, dear friends: in the eyes of the Most High, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. God does not delay in keeping the promise, as some mean “delay.” Rather, God shows you generous patience; desiring that no one perish, but that all come to repentance.

The day of Our God will come like a thief, and on that day the heavens will vanish with a roar; the elements will catch fire and fall apart, and the earth, and all its works will be destroyed in the flames. Since everything is to be destroyed

in this way, what holy and devoted lives you should lead!

Look for the coming of the Day of God, and try to hasten it along. Because of it, the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt away in a blaze. But what we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to the promise, God’s justice will reside. So beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found at peace and without stain or defilement in God’s sight. Consider Our God’s patience as your opportunity for salvation.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*Prepare the way for Our God, make straight every path;
all will see the salvation of God.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, God’s own, begins as it was written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I send my messenger before you
to prepare your way:
a herald’s voice in the desert, crying,
‘Make ready the way of Our God,
clear a straight path.’”

And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair and wore a

leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of preaching, John said, “One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH called to the man: "Where are you?" "I heard you walking in the garden," replied the man. "I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid." "Who told you of nakedness? Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I forbade you to eat?" The man replied, "It
Then YHWH said to the snake,

"Because you have done this, you are accursed:
lower than the cattle, lower than the wild beasts,
you will crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of one other,
you and the woman, your offspring and hers.
Her offspring will wound you on the head
and you will wound hers in the heel."

Adam — "Humanity" — named the woman Eve — "Lifegiver" — because she became the mother of all the living.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Praised be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children — such was God's pleasure and will — that everyone might praise the glory

of God's grace that was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ.

In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God — and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel — we were predestined to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, God is with you;
blessed are you among women.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee named Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus — ‘Deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat

of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you — hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.”

With that, the angel left her.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit of Exalted YHWH is upon me,
for YHWH has anointed me:
YHWH has sent me to bring good news to those who are poor;
to heal broken hearts;
to proclaim release to those held captive
and liberation to those in prison;
to announce a year of favor from YHWH,
and the day of YHWH's vindication.
I will joyfully exult in YHWH,
who is the joy of my soul.
YHWH clothed me with a robe of deliverance
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
the way a bridegroom puts on a turban
and a bride bedecks herself with jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden brings its seeds to blossom,
so YHWH makes justice sprout,
and praise spring up before all nations.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks for everything — for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not stifle the Spirit; do not despise the prophetic gift. But test everything and accept only what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and complete — spirit, soul, and body — irreproachable at the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. The One who calls us is trustworthy: God will make sure it comes to pass.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

ALLELUIA!

*The Spirit of Our God is upon me;
and has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the Light; he only came to testify about the Light — the true light that illumines all humankind.

Now the Temple authorities sent emissaries from Jerusalem — priests and Levites — to talk to John. “Who are you?” they asked.

This is John’s testimony: he did not refuse to answer, but freely admitted, “I am not the Messiah.”

“Who are you, then?” they asked. “Elijah?”

“No, I am not,” he answered.

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he replied.

Finally they said to him, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you have to say for yourself?”

John said, “I am, as Isaiah prophesied, the voice of someone crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight Our God’s road!’ ”

The emissaries were members of the Pharisee sect. They questioned him further: “If you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, then why are you baptizing people?”

John said, “I baptize with water because among you stands someone whom you do not recognize — the One who is to come after me — the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy even to untie.”

This occurred in Bethany, across the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

When David finally settled into the palace, and YHWH gave him rest from enemies on every side, he said to the prophet Nathan, “Here I am living in this house of cedar while the Ark of YHWH rests in a tent!”

Nathan replied to David, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for YHWH is with you.”

That night the word of YHWH came to Nathan, and said, “Go and tell my servant David that this is what YHWH wants: ‘Are you the one to build me a Temple?’”

“Now then, tell my servant, David, ‘This is what YHWH Omnipotent says: I took you from the pastures and from following sheep

to be the ruler of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and destroyed all your enemies in your path. I will give you fame like the fame of the great ones on the earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel. I will plant them where they will have a home of their own — a place where they will never be disturbed. Never again will the sinners oppress them as they did in the past ever since the time I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I will give you security from all your enemies.

“Furthermore, I alone will establish your house. Your family and your dynasty will last forever.’”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To God — who is able to strengthen you in the Good News that I proclaim when I proclaim Jesus Christ, the Good News that reveals the mystery hidden for many ages, but has now been manifested through the writings of the prophets,

and at the command of the eternal God made known to all the Gentiles, that they may believe and obey — to God who alone is wise, may glory be given through Jesus Christ to endless ages. Amen!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*I am the servant of God;
may God's will for me be done.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee named Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you. Blessed are you among women!”

Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus — ‘Deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of

David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you — hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.”

With that, the angel left her.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS / MASS AT MIDNIGHT

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people walking in darkness
are seeing a brilliant light —
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows
light is shining.
YHWH, you have made the nation greater —
you have brought them abundant joy!
They celebrate in your presence
as with the harvest celebrations,
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the weight on their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressors —
you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak that was dragged through blood,
is now used as fuel for the fire.
For a child is born to us,
an heir is given us,
upon whose shoulders
dominion will rest.
This One shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of YHWH,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.
This dominion, and this peace,
will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm
sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.
The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent
will accomplish it.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope — the appearing of the glory

of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. It was Christ who was sacrificed for us, to redeem us from all unrighteousness and to cleanse a people to be Christ's own, eager to do what is right.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Savior Jesus Christ.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem in Judea—because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you — news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David's city, a savior — the Messiah — has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in high heaven!
And on earth, peace to those on
whom God's favor rests.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

* Another Gospel Reading (from the Mass at Dawn or Mass During the Day) may be substituted.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS / MASS AT DAWN

First Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

See, YHWH proclaims
to the ends of the earth,
“Say to daughter Zion,
‘Your salvation comes!
Your savior brings the reward with him,
sends recompense before him.’ ”
They will be called “The Holy People,”
“the Redeemed of YHWH,”
and you will be called “Frequented,”
“City-not-forsaken.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus: 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, we were saved, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of God’s own mercy. We were saved through the baptism of new birth and

renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God lavished on us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that we might be justified through grace and become heirs to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

Glory to God in heaven; peace and grace to all people on earth.

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15-20*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us." They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child.

All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

* Another Gospel Reading (from the Mass at Midnight or Mass During the Day) may be substituted.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the one who brings good news,
announcing peace, bearing news of good things,
proclaiming salvation, and saying to Zion, "YHWH reigns!"
Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy;
for they see directly, before their eyes,
YHWH restoring Zion.
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For YHWH comforts the people,
and has redeemed Jerusalem.
YHWH bares a holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

The beginning of the letter to the Hebrews.

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these final days, God has spoken to us through the Only Begotten, who has been made heir of all things and through whom the universe was first created. Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the exact representation of God's being; all things are sustained by God's powerful Word. Having cleansed us from our sins, Jesus Christ sat down at the right

hand of the Glory of heaven — as far superior to the angels as the name Christ has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Own; today I have begotten you," or, "I will be your parent, and you will be my child" or, as when God brings the Firstborn into the world, "Let all the angels of God worship you"?

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore God.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18*

The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning
there was the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God
from the beginning.
Through the Word
all things came into being,
and apart from the Word
nothing came into being
that has come into being.
In the Word was life,
and that life was humanity's light —
a Light that shines on in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the Light; he only came to testify about the Light — the true light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world —
was in the world —
and though the world was made through the Word,
the world did not recognize it.
Though the Word came to its own realm,
the Word's own people did not accept it.

(continued)

Yet any who did accept the Word,
who believed in that Name,
were empowered to become children of God —
children born not of natural descent,
nor urge of flesh
nor human will —
but born of God.

And the Word became flesh
and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory —
the favor and position a parent gives an only child —
filled with grace,
filled with truth.

John testified by proclaiming, "This is the One I was talking about when I said, 'The One who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.'"

Of this One's fullness
we have all had a share —
gift on top of gift.

For while the Law was given through Moses,
the Gift — and the Truth — came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;
it is the Only Begotten,
ever at Abba's side,
who has revealed God to us.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

*Another Gospel Reading (from the Mass at Midnight or Mass at Dawn) may be substituted.

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

A reading from the book of Sirach.

YHWH sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority is confirmed over her children.
Those who honor their father atone for sins;
and riches are stored up for those who revere their mothers.
Those who honor their parents are gladdened by children,
and when they pray they are heard.
Those who revere their parents will live a long life;
they obey YHWH who brings comfort to their parents.
My children, take care of your parents when they are old;
do not grieve them as long as they live.
Even if their minds fail, be considerate of them;
do not revile them in the fullness of your strength.
For kindness to parents will not be forgotten,
it serves as a sin offering — it will take lasting root.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another — forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God

from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Savior, giving thanks to God through Christ.

You who are in committed relationships, be submissive to each other. This is your duty in Christ Jesus. Partners joined by God, love each other. Avoid any bitterness between you. Children, obey those responsible for you in everything, for this is what pleases God the most. And if you are responsible for children, do not nag them, lest they lose heart.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
and the fullness of Christ's message live within you.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After the astrologers had left Herod, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my Own."

After Herod's death, the angel of God appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command, "Get up, take the child and

his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead."

Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they returned to the land of Israel. Joseph heard, however, that Archelaus had succeeded Herod as Ruler of Judea, and Joseph was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received by Joseph in a dream, the family went to the region of Galilee. There they settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way, what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (January 1)

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

YHWH said to Moses, “Speak to Aaron and his children and tell them, “This is how you will bless the Israelites. Say to them,

May YHWH bless you and keep you!

May YHWH’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May YHWH look kindly upon you and give you peace!

So will they invoke my name over the Israelites, and I will bless them!”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the designated time had come, God had sent forth the Only Begotten — born of a woman, born under the Law — to deliver from the Law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted heirs. The proof that you are

children of God is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of the Child who calls out “Abba!” You are no longer slaves, but daughters and sons! And if you are daughters and sons, you are also heirs, by God’s design.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY — continued

ALLELUIA!

*In times past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
Now God speaks to us through our Savior Jesus Christ!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The shepherds hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.

The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

When the eighth day arrived for the child's circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-4,8-12

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Wisdom sings her own praises,
amidst her own people she proclaims her glory;
she opens her mouth in the assembly of the YHWH,
she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One,
“I came forth from the mouth of YHWH,
and I covered the earth like mist.
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
with my throne on a pillar of cloud.

“Then the Creator of all things instructed me,
and my Creator fixed a place for my tent, saying,
‘Pitch your tent with Leah and Rachel and Jacob;
make Israel your inheritance.’
For all ages, in the beginning, YHWH created me,
and for eternity I will remain.
I ministered before YHWH in the holy tabernacle,
and in Zion I found a place to dwell.
YHWH has given me rest in the beloved city,
in Jerusalem is my domain.
I have taken root among a privileged people,
in YHWH’s portion and inheritance.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Praised be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children — such was God’s pleasure and will — that everyone might praise the glory of God’s grace that was freely bestowed on us in God’s beloved, Jesus Christ.

From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of the holy

ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator.

I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you — the promised glories that God’s holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

Glory to our Savior who is proclaimed to the world;

Glory from all who believe in Christ!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning
 there was the Word;
The Word was in God's presence,
 and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God
 from the beginning.
Through the Word
 all things came into being,
 and apart from the Word
 nothing came into being
 that has come into being.
In the Word was life,
 and that life was humanity's light —
 a Light that shines on in the darkness,
 a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the Light; he only came to testify about the Light — the true light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world —
 was in the world —
 and though the world was made through the Word,
 the world did not recognize it.
Though the Word came to its own realm,
 the Word's own people did not accept it.
Yet any who did accept the Word,
 who believed in that Name,
 were empowered to become children of God —
 children born not of natural descent,
 nor urge of flesh
 nor human will —
 but born of God.
And the Word became flesh
 and stayed for a little while among us.
We saw the Word's glory —
 the favor and position a parent gives an only child —
 filled with grace, filled with truth.

(continued)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — continued

John testified by proclaiming, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The One who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’”

Of this One’s fullness
we have all had a share —
gift on top of gift.
For while the Law was given through Moses,
the Gift — and the Truth — came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the Only Begotten,
ever at Abba’s side,
who has revealed God to us.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

EPIPHANY

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
the glory of YHWH is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you YHWH now rises
and YHWH's glory now appears on you.
The nations come to your light
and the leaders to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
all are assembling and coming toward you,
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar.
At this sight, you will grow radiant,
your heart will thrill and rejoice;
the riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you.
Camels in throngs will cover you,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah.
Everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I am sure that you have heard of God's grace, of which I was made a steward on your behalf; this mystery, as I have briefly described it, was given to me by revelation, unknown to the people of former ages, but now revealed by the Spirit to the holy

apostles and prophets. That mystery is that the Gentiles are heirs, as we are; members of the Body, as we are; and partakers of the promise of Jesus the Messiah through the Good News, as we are.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*We have seen a star in the east
and have come to adore our Savior.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus' birth — which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod — astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him.

"Here is what the prophet has written:

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
since from you will come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the

star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report it to me — so that I may go and offer homage too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star that they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

PRESENTATION OF JESUS

First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Here is my Servant, whom I uphold
my chosen one, in whom I delight,
I have endowed you with my Spirit
that you may bring true justice to the nations.
You do not cry out or raise your voice,
or make yourself heard in the street.
So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed,
or quench a wavering flame,
faithfully you will bring forth true justice.
you will neither waver nor be crushed
until justice is established on earth,
for the islands await your teaching.
I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right,
I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you.
I have appointed you to be a covenant people,
a light to the nations:
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

So Peter said to Cornelius and the people assembled in the house, “I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality — rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all.

“You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF JESUS — continued

ALLELUIA!

*The heavens were opened and a voice was heard:
This is my Only Begotten, Listen!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

In the course of preaching, John said, “One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan

River by John. Immediately on coming up out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Then a voice came from the heavens: “You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

PRESENTATION OF JESUS (February 2)

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Behold, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me;
and the Sovereign One you are seeking
will suddenly enter the Temple —
the messenger of YHWH's promises whom you long for
is surely coming, says YHWH of Hosts.
Who will be able to resist the day of your coming?
Who will remain standing when you appear?
For you are like the refiner's fire,
like the fuller's lye.
You will sit like a refiner and purifier of silver,
and you will purify the children of Levi,
refining them like gold or silver
to enable them to make offerings to God in righteousness.
The offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing offerings
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children of God are flesh and blood, Jesus likewise partook of that flesh and blood, that by dying he might render powerless the one who has the power of death — that is, the Devil — and free those whose fear of death had enslaved them all their lives. Surely Jesus came to help not angels but rather the children of Sara

and Abraham! Therefore, Jesus had to become like his sisters and brothers in every way, in order to be a merciful and faithful high priest on our behalf, to make atonement for the sins of the people. And since Jesus suffered while being tempted, he is able to help others who are being tempted.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

PRESENTATION OF JESUS — continued

ALLELUIA!

*This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people, Israel.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it is written in the Law of Our God, “every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God.” They likewise came to offer in sacrifice “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accord with the dictate of the law of Our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah of God.

Prompted by her, Simeon came to the temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation that you have prepared for all the peoples to see — a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.”

As the child’s mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well.”

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Joel 2:12-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

Even now — it is YHWH who speaks —
return to me with your whole heart,
fasting, weeping, mourning.
Rend your hearts, not your garments.
Return to YHWH,
who is gracious and merciful,
and ready to forgive.
Who knows whether YHWH will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind —
enough to have a grain offering and a drink offering left over
for the Most High, YHWH?
Blow the trumpet in Zion!
Proclaim a fast,
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people,
summon the community;
assemble the elders,
and gather the children, even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.
Let the priests, YHWH's ministers,
stop halfway between the entrance and altar and stand weeping.
Let them say, "Spare Your people, YHWH!
Do not make Your heritage a thing of shame,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the nations,
'Where is their God?'"
Then YHWH will be zealous for the land,
and take pity on the people.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to *be* sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.

As Christ's co-workers we beg you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For God says through Isaiah, "At the acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*Create a clean heart in me, O God;
return to me the joy of my salvation.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

“When you do acts of charity, for example, do not have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they have already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be in secret, and your Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will repay you.

“And when you pray, do not behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in

the synagogues and on street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to God who is in that secret place, and your Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will reward you.

“And when you fast, do not look depressed like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Do not let anyone know you are fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will reward you.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH then said to Noah and his family, “I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you — birds, cattle, and the earth’s wildlife — everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you:

All flesh will never again be swept away
by the waters of the flood;
never again will a flood
destroy the earth.”

YHWH said, “Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth,

my bow appears in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

The reason why Christ died for sins once for everyone — the just for the sake of the unjust — was in order to lead you to God. Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but was given life in the Spirit. And in the Spirit, Jesus went and preached to the imprisoned spirits. They had refused obedience long ago, while God waited patiently in the days of Noah and the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were brought to safety

through the water. That water prefigured the water of baptism through which you are now brought to safety. Baptism is not the washing away of physical dirt, but the appeal made to God by a good conscience: it brings salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who entered heaven and is now at the right hand of God, having domination over angelic authorities and powers.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*We do not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then YHWH tested Abraham.

“Abraham!” God called.

“Here I am,” Abraham replied.

“Take your son,” YHWH said, “your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, ‘Seeing.’ Offer him there as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.”

When they arrived at the place YHWH had pointed out, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged wood on it. Then he tied up his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.

But the angel of YHWH called to him from heaven: “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am!” he replied.

“Do not raise your hand against the boy!” the angel said. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how deeply you revere YHWH, since you did not refuse me your son, your only child.”

Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child.

The angel of YHWH called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said,

“I swear by myself —
it is YHWH who speaks —
because you have done this,
because you have not refused me your son,
your only child,
I will shower blessings on you;
I will make your descendants as many
as the stars of heaven
and the grains of sand on the seashore.
Your descendants will possess
the gates of their enemies,
and in your descendants
all the nations of the earth will find blessing —
all this because you obeyed my command.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Since God did not spare the Only Begotten, but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God's chosen

ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died — or rather, was raised — and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

From the shining cloud a voice is heard:

This is my beloved One; listen!

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white — whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.” Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore — only Jesus.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead. They agreed to this, though they discussed among themselves what “rising from the dead” could mean.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Then YHWH spoke all these words, and said, "I am YHWH who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"Do not worship any gods except me!

"Do not make for yourselves any carved image or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth, and do not bow down to them or serve them! For I, YHWH, am a jealous God, and for the parents' fault I punish the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of those who turn from me; but I show kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love me and heed my commandments.

"Do not utter the Name of YHWH to misuse it, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who utters YHWH's name to misuse it!

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! For six days you will labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath

for YHWH. Do no work on that day, neither you nor your daughter nor your son, nor your workers — women or men — nor your animals, nor the foreigner who lives among you. For in the six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that they hold, but rested on the seventh day; this is why YHWH has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.

"Honor your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that YHWH has given to you!

"No murdering!

"No adultery!

"No stealing!

"No giving false testimony against your neighbor!

"No desiring your neighbor's house! No desiring your neighbor's spouse, or worker — female or male — or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor!"

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For while the Jews call for miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here we are preaching a Messiah nailed to a cross. To the Jews this is an obstacle that they cannot get over, and to the Greeks it is madness — but

to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*Your words, O God, are spirit and life;
you have the message of eternal life.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-25

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Because it was almost the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the Temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep and pigeons, while moneychangers sat at their counters. Making a whip out of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple — even the cattle and sheep — and overturned the tables of the moneychangers, scattering their coins. Then he faced the pigeon-sellers: “Take all this out of here! Stop turning God’s house into a market!” The disciples remembered the words of Scripture: “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

The Temple authorities intervened and said, “What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?”

Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

They retorted, “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you are going to raise it up in three days?” But the temple he was speaking of was his body. It was only after Jesus had been raised from the dead that the disciples remembered this statement and believed the scripture — and the words that Jesus had spoken.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover festival, many people believed in him, for they could see the signs he was performing. But Jesus knew all people, and did not entrust himself to them. Jesus never needed evidence about people’s motives; he was well aware of what was in everyone’s heart.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

All the leaders of the priests and the people were unfaithful, worshipping the abominable idols of other nations. They defiled the house that had been consecrated in the Name of YHWH in Jerusalem.

The Most High God, the God of their ancestors, warned them time and time again through messengers, for YHWH had compassion for the people and desired to spare the house of worship. Yet the people mocked the messengers, despised the word, and ridiculed the prophets until at last the rage of YHWH became so great there was no remedy.

YHWH brought down on them the ruler of the Babylonians, who put their young defenders to the sword in the sanctuary. Neither male nor female, young nor old were spared. YHWH handed all over to Nebuchadnezzar. The invaders set fire to the house of YHWH, razed the walls of the city of Jerusalem, and burned all the stately residences

and their furnishings. Everything was destroyed; nothing was left.

Nebuchadnezzar took the remnant into exile in Babylon — those who escaped the sword — to be slaves. They remained the slaves of the Babylonians until the Persians came to power, fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah: “Until the land has fulfilled its Sabbaths, it will lie desolate; at rest, untended, until the seventy years have passed.”

In the first year of the ruler Cyrus of Persia, the Most High God — fulfilling the word spoken through Jeremiah — inspired the ruler to issue a proclamation in writing throughout the land. It was written, “This is the proclamation of Cyrus, ruler of Persia: The Most High God of Heaven gave me all the realms of the world, and God has appointed me to build a temple for God in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever among you belongs to YHWH’s people, may the Most High God be with you! You can go home again!”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

But God, rich in mercy and loving us so much, brought us to life in Christ, even when we were dead in our sins. It is through this grace that we have been saved. God raised us up and, in union with Christ Jesus, gave us a place in the heavenly realm, to display in ages to come how immense are the resources of God’s grace and kindness in

Christ Jesus. And it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith — and even that is not of yourselves, but the gift of God. Nor is it a reward for anything that you have done, so nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*God loved the world so much as to give the Only Begotten,
that whoever believes it may not die
But may have eternal life.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so the Chosen One must be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One
might have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One,
that whoever believes may not die,
but have eternal life.

God sent the Only Begotten into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that through the Only Begotten, the world might be saved.

Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgment,
but whoever does not believe is judged already
for not believing in the name
of the Only Begotten of God.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light came into the world,
people showed they preferred darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and avoid it,
for fear their actions will be exposed;
but people who live by the truth
come out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen
that what they do is done in God.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

“Behold, the days are coming, says YHWH, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them up out of the land of Egypt — a covenant they broke, though I was their spouse, says YHWH. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will

put my Law in their minds and on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

“No longer will they need to teach one another or remind one another to listen to YHWH. All of them, high and low alike, will listen to me, says YHWH, for I will forgive their misdeeds and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of God. R Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

In the days when he was in the flesh, Jesus offered prayer and supplications with loud cries and tears to God, who was able to save him from death, and Jesus was heard because of his reverence. Firstborn though

he was, Jesus learned to obey through suffering. But having been made perfect, Jesus became, for all who obey, the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*If you serve me, follow me, says Our God;
And where I am, my servant will also be.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: “Please, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew, and together the two went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied,

“Now the hour has come
for the Chosen One to be glorified.

The truth of the matter is,
unless a grain of wheat
falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

If you love your life
you will lose it;
if you hate your life in this world
you will keep it for eternal life.

Anyone who wants to work for me,
must follow in my footsteps,
and wherever I am,
my worker will be there too.

Anyone who works for me
will be honored by Abba God.

Now my soul is troubled.

What will I say: ‘Abba, save me from this hour?’

But it was for this very reason
I have come to this hour.

Abba, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowds that stood nearby heard this and said it was a clap of thunder; others said, “It was an angel speaking.” Jesus answered, “It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.”

“Sentence is now being passed on this world;
now the ruler of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from this earth,
I will draw all people to myself.”

By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

Reading for the Blessing of the Palms / Procession (Option 1): Mark 11:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it but will send it back very soon.’”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest!”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out:

Reading for the Blessing of the Palms / Procession (Option 2): John 12:12-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

The next day, the great crowd that had come for the Passover feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted joyfully,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of Our God —
the ruler of Israel!”

Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey, in accord with scripture:

“Fear not, O people of Zion!

Your ruler comes to you sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

At the time, the disciples did not understand all this, but after Jesus was glorified they recalled that the people had done to him precisely what had been written about him.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Exalted YHWH has given me
a skilled and well-trained tongue
so that I can sustain the weary
with a timely word.
YHWH awakens me morning after morning —
wakes my ear, to listen like a student.
Exalted YHWH opened my ears;
and I have obeyed,
I did not turn away.
I offered my back to those beating me,
offered my cheeks to those who would humiliate me;
I did not hide my face from insults or spitting.
Because exalted YHWH helps me,
insults cannot wound me,
for I have set my face like flint,
because I know I will not be put to shame.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God,
did not deem equality with God
something to be clung to —
but instead became completely empty
and took the image of oppressed humankind.

Born into the human condition,
found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled —
obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Christ
and gave to Jesus the name above every other name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:

Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*Christ became obedient for us, even to death,
dying on the cross;
Therefore Christ was raised on high
and given a name above all other names.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

NOTE: The Passion reading is divided into eight speaking roles:

- 1) Narrator
- 2) Jesus
- 3) Judas
- 4) Peter
- 5) Woman
- 6) Speaker One (disciple)
- 7) Speaker Two (high priest)
- 8) Pontius Pilate

Where possible, the roles should be distributed among eight readers. Where this is not pastorally possible, the two Speaker roles could be proclaimed by a single person. The Passion is proclaimed without the Gospel greeting. Candles and incense are never used. A homily should follow the Passion proclamation.

Passion Reading: Mark 14:1 – 16:47

The Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

NARRATOR: Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to be observed in two days' time. The chief priests and religious scholars were looking for some excuse to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they said:

SPEAKER ONE: Not during the festival, or the people may riot.

NARRATOR: While Jesus was in Bethany reclining at a table in the house of Simon, who was afflicted with leprosy, a woman entered carrying an alabaster jar of perfume

made from expensive aromatic nard. After breaking the jar, she began to pour the perfume on his head. Some said to themselves indignantly:

SPEAKER ONE: What is the point of this extravagant waste of perfume? It could have been sold for over three hundred silver pieces, and the money given to those in need!

NARRATOR: They were infuriated with her.

(continued)

JESUS: Let her alone. Why do you criticize her? She has done me a kindness. You will always have poor people among you, and you can do them good whenever you want, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body and is preparing it for burial. The truth is, wherever the Good News is proclaimed throughout the world, what she has done will be told in her memory.

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand Jesus over to them. Hearing what he had to say, they were jubilant and promised to give him money. Then Judas started looking for an opportune moment to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the paschal lamb, the disciples said to Jesus:

ALL: Where do you want us to prepare the Passover supper for you?

JESUS: Go into the city, and you will come upon a man carrying a water jar. Follow him into a house he enters and say to the owner, “The Teacher asks, ‘Where is my guestroom? I want to eat the Passover meal there with my disciples.’” Then you will be shown an upstairs room, spacious, furnished, with everything in order. That is the place you are to get ready for us.

NARRATOR: The disciples went off. When they reached the city, they found it just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover supper. As it grew dark, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. They reclined at table, and in the course of the meal Jesus said:

JESUS: The truth is, one of you is about to betray me — one who is eating with me.

NARRATOR: They were very upset at these words, and one by one they said to him, “Surely it is not I!” Jesus replied:

JESUS: It is one of you Twelve, one who dips into the dish with me. The Chosen One is going the way the scriptures foretell. But woe to the one by whom the Chosen One is betrayed! It were better had that that person never been born.

NARRATOR: During the meal Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying:

JESUS: Take this and eat it. This is my body.

NARRATOR: He likewise took a cup, gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. Jesus said to them:

JESUS: This is my blood, the blood of the Covenant, which will be poured out on behalf of many. The truth is, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until the day I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.

NARRATOR: After singing songs of praise, they walked out to the Mount of Olives. As they were walking, Jesus then said to them:

JESUS: You will all fall away, for scripture says, “I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.” But after I have been raised, I will go to Galilee ahead of you.

NARRATOR: Peter said to Jesus:

PETER: Even though everyone may fall away, I will not.

JESUS: The truth is, this very night before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

NARRATOR: But Peter said vehemently:

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

PETER: Even if I have to die with you, I will not disown you.

NARRATOR: All the other disciples said the same. Then they came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them:

JESUS: Sit down here while I pray.

NARRATOR: Jesus took along with him Peter, James and John. Then he began to be very distressed and troubled, and he said to them:

JESUS: My heart is filled with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.

NARRATOR: Jesus went a little farther off and fell to the ground, praying that if it were possible this hour might pass him by. He said:

JESUS: Abba, you have the power to do all things. Take this cup away from me. But let it be not my will, but your will.

NARRATOR: When Jesus returned he found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter:

JESUS: Asleep, Simon? Could you not stay awake for even an hour? Be on guard, and pray that you not be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

NARRATOR: Going back again, Jesus began to pray in the same words. Upon returning Jesus found the disciples asleep once again. They could not keep their eyes open, nor did they know what to say to him.

He returned a third time and said:

JESUS: Still sleeping? Still taking your rest? It will have to do. The hour is upon us — the Chosen One is being handed into the clutches of evildoers. Get up, let us go. Look! Here comes my betrayer.

NARRATOR: While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd carrying swords and clubs; they had been sent by the chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders. The betrayer had arranged this signal for them:

JUDAS: Whomever I embrace is the one; arrest him and take him away under guard.

NARRATOR: Judas went directly to Jesus, embraced him, and said:

JUDAS: Rabbi!

NARRATOR: At this they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

One of the bystanders drew his sword and struck the high priest's attendant, cutting off his ear. Jesus then said:

JESUS: Why have you come to arrest me with swords and clubs, as though I were a robber? I was within your reach daily, teaching in the Temple precincts, yet you never arrested me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

NARRATOR: With that, all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled. Following Jesus was a youth wearing nothing but a linen cloth, whom they also tried to arrest but who fled naked, leaving the cloth behind.

Then they led Jesus off to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and religious scholars gathered together.

Peter followed at a distance right into the high priest's courtyard, where he found a seat with the Temple guard and began to warm himself at the fire.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

The chief priests with the whole Sanhedrin were busy soliciting testimony against Jesus that might lead to his death, but they could not find any. Many gave false testimony against Jesus, but their stories did not agree. Some, for instance, on taking the stand, testified falsely by saying:

SPEAKER ONE: We heard him declare, “I will destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands!”

NARRATOR: But even in this, their testimony did not agree. The high priest stood before the court and began to interrogate Jesus:

SPEAKER TWO: Have you no answer to what these people are testifying against you?

NARRATOR: But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Once again the high priest interrogated him:

SPEAKER TWO: Are you the Messiah, the Only Begotten of the Blessed One?

JESUS: I am! And you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.

NARRATOR: At that, the high priest tore his robes and said:

SPEAKER TWO: What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?

ALL: He is guilty and deserves death!

NARRATOR: Some of them began to spit on Jesus. They blindfolded and hit him, saying:

ALL: Prophecy! Who struck you?

NARRATOR: While Peter was down in the courtyard, one of the attendants of the high priest came along. When she noticed

Peter seated near the fire, she looked more closely at him and said:

WOMAN: You too were with Jesus of Nazareth.

NARRATOR: Peter said:

PETER: I do not know what you are talking about! What do you mean?

NARRATOR: Then Peter went out into the gateway. At that moment a rooster crowed. The woman, keeping an eye on him, started again to tell the bystanders:

WOMAN: He is one of them.

NARRATOR: Once again Peter denied it. A little later the bystanders said to him once more:

ALL: You are certainly one of them! You are a Galilean, are you not?

NARRATOR: Peter began to curse, and he swore:

PETER: I do not even know whom you are talking about!

NARRATOR: The cock crowed a second time. And Peter recalled the prediction Jesus had made. “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” He rushed away, weeping.

As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, the elders and religious scholars and the whole Sanhedrin reached a decision. They bound Jesus and led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, who interrogated him:

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS: You are the one who is saying it.

NARRATOR: The chief priests then brought many accusations against him. Pilate interrogated Jesus again:

(continued)

PILATE: Surely you have some answer? See how many accusations they are leveling against you!

NARRATOR: But to Pilate's astonishment, Jesus made no further response.

Now whenever there was a festival, Pilate would release for them one prisoner — anyone they asked for. There was a prisoner named Barabbas who was jailed along with the rioters who had committed murder in the uprising. When the crowd came to ask that Pilate honor the custom, Pilate rejoined:

PILATE: Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Pilate was aware, of course, that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. But the chief priests incited the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. Pilate again asked them:

PILATE: What am I to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: The people shouted back:

ALL: Crucify him!

PILATE: Why? What crime has he committed?

NARRATOR: But they shouted even louder:

ALL: Crucify him!

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them, and after having Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the hall known as the Praetorium; then they assembled the whole battalion. They dressed Jesus in royal purple, then wove a crown of thorns and put it on him. They began to salute him:

ALL: All hail, King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: They kept striking Jesus on the head with a reed, spitting at him and kneeling in front of him pretending to pay homage. When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. Then they led him out to be crucified.

A passerby named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming in from the fields. The soldiers pressed him into service to carry Jesus' cross. Then they brought Jesus to the site of Golgotha — which means "Skull Place."

They tried to give him wine drugged with myrrh, but he would not take it. Then they nailed him to the cross and divided up his garments by rolling dice for them to see what each should take. It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him.

The inscription listing the charge read, "The King of the Jews." With Jesus they crucified two robbers, one at his right and one at his left.

People going by kept insulting Jesus, shaking their heads and saying:

ALL: So you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself now by coming down from that cross!

NARRATOR: The chief priests and the religious scholars also joined in and jeered:

ALL: He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let "the Messiah, the King of Israel" come down from that cross right now so that we can see it and believe in him.

NARRATOR: Those who had been crucified with him hurled the same insult.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until about three in the afternoon. At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

JESUS: *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*

NARRATOR: Which means:

JESUS: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

NARRATOR: A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked:

ALL: Listen! He is calling on Elijah!

NARRATOR: Someone ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and stuck it on a reed to try to make Jesus drink, saying:

ALL: Let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion who stood guard over Jesus, seeing how he died, declared:

ALL: Clearly, this was God's own!

(All kneel for a moment in prayer)

NARRATOR: Also present were some women who were looking on from a distance.

Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James the younger and Joses; and Salome. These women had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee and attended to his needs. There were also many others who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

As it grew dark — it was Preparation Day, that is, the eve of the Sabbath — a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph from Arimathea, arrived. He was waiting for the reign of God, and he gathered up courage and sought an audience with Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Upon learning that this was so, Pilate released the body to Joseph.

Then, having brought a linen shroud, Joseph took the body of Jesus down, wrapped him in the linen and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of rock. Finally, he rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb.

Meanwhile, Mary of Magdala and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were looking on and observed where Jesus had been laid.

No acclamation concludes the Passion reading. A short homily should be given.

HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

YHWH said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month will be the first of all months for you. You will count it as the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month every family in Israel will take a lamb from the flock, one for each household. If the household is too small for the whole lamb, it will join its neighbor, as the number of persons requires. You must take into account what each can eat in deciding the number for the animal. The lamb must be a yearling without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month. Then the whole community of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it in the evening. Some of the blood must then be taken and applied to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house where the

lamb is eaten. That night they will eat the roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girded, sandals on your feet, and a staff in your hand; you are to eat it in haste. It is the Passover of YHWH. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I will execute this judgment on all the gods of Egypt: I am YHWH! The blood will mark the houses where you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and you will escape destruction when I strike the land of Egypt.

“This day will be for you a memorial day, and you must celebrate it as a feast in YHWH’s honor. All generations are to observe it forever as a feast day.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians

What I have passed on to you, I received from Christ — that on the night he was betrayed, our Savior Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, “This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after

supper, he took the cup and said, “This cup is the New Covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim Jesus’ death until Christ comes.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was.

The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, begot of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus — knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God — rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Rabbi, you are not going to wash my feet, are you?"

Jesus answered, "You do not realize what I am doing right now, but later you will understand."

Peter replied, "You will never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus said, "All who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet — and you are clean, though not every one of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher" and "Sovereign" — and rightly, for so I am. If I — your Teacher and Sovereign — have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example; that you should do as I have done to you."

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

GOOD FRIDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

You will prosper, my servant,
you will be raised up and highly exalted.
Even as the crowds were appalled after seeing you —
you were so disfigured as to no longer look human —
so will the crowds be amazed at you,
and rulers will stand speechless before you;
for they will see something never told
and witness something never heard,
“Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the might of YHWH been revealed?”
You grew up like a sapling before us,
like a root in parched soil.
There was no beauty in you, we saw you without esteem;
there was nothing to attract us.
You were rejected and despised by all;
you know suffering, and you are acquainted with sorrow.
People avoided your gaze;
we held you in low esteem.
Yet you bore our infirmities
and carried our suffering.
We thought you were being punished,
struck by YHWH, and brought low.
But you were pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins;
upon you lies a chastening which brings us wholeness,
and through your wounds we are healed.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray:
each of us goes our own way.
But YHWH laid upon you
the guilt of us all.
Though treated harshly, you bore it humbly
and never opened your mouth.
You were like a lamb led to slaughter,
or a sheep before shearers:
you were silent and never opened your mouth.

Taken by force and condemned,
who would ever have foreseen your destiny?
You were taken from the land of the living,
and fatally struck down for the sin of the people.
You were buried with the wicked
and entombed with the rich,
though you had done no wrong,
and deceit was not found in your mouth.
But YHWH was satisfied to crush you and put you to grief:
if you give your life as an atonement for sin
you will see your descendants,
you will prolong your days,
and the will of YHWH will prevail through you.

Through your suffering,
you will see contentment and light.
By your knowledge, my Righteous One, my servant,
you will justify many by taking their guilt upon yourself.
Therefore, I will grant you a reward among the great,
and you will divide the spoils with the mighty;
for you surrendered yourself to death
and allowed yourself to be counted among the wicked,
while you were taking away the sins of many
and interceding for sinners.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens — Jesus, the Firstborn of God — let us hold fast to our profession of faith. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor, and find help in time of need.

In the days when he was in the flesh, Jesus offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to God, who was able to save him from death, and Jesus was heard because of his reverence. Firstborn though he was, Jesus learned to obey through suffering. But having been made perfect, Jesus became, for all who obey, the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

NOTE: The Passion reading is divided into seven speaking roles:

- 1) Narrator
- 2) Jesus
- 3) Peter
- 4) Pilate
- 5) Speaker One (cohort, guard, or soldiers)
- 6) Speaker Two (attendants or others)
- 7) Speaker Three (authorities or chief priests)

Where possible the roles should be distributed among seven readers. Where this is not pastorally possible, the three Speaker roles could be proclaimed by a single person. The Passion is proclaimed without the Gospel greeting. Candles and incense are never used.

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*Christ became obedient for us, even to death,
dying on the Cross;
Therefore Christ was raised on high
and given a name above all other names.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Passion Reading: John 18:1 – 19:42

The Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

NARRATOR: After Jesus prayed for the disciples, he left with them and crossed the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and Jesus and the disciples entered it.

Judas, the traitor, knew the place well, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led the Roman cohort to the place, along with some Temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. All were armed and carried lanterns and torches.

Then Jesus, aware of everything that was going to take place, stepped forward and said to them:

JESUS: Who are you looking for?

SPEAKER ONE: Are you Jesus of Nazareth?

JESUS: I am.

NARRATOR: Now Judas, the traitor, was with them. When Jesus said, “I am,” they all drew back and fell to the ground.

Again, Jesus asked them:

JESUS: Who are you looking for?

SPEAKER ONE: Jesus of Nazareth.

JESUS: I have already told you that I am the one you want. If I am the one you are looking for, let the others go.

(continued)

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill what he had spoken: “Of those you gave me, I have not lost a single one.” Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s attendant, cutting off his right ear. The name of the attendant was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter:

JESUS: Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup Abba God has given me?

NARRATOR: Then the cohort and its captain and the Temple guards seized and bound Jesus. They took him first to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who advised the Temple authorities that it was better to have one person die on behalf of the people.

Simon Peter and the other disciple followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, entered his courtyard with Jesus, while Peter hung back at the gate. So the disciple known to the high priest went back and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside.

The doorkeeper said:

SPEAKER TWO: Are you not one of this guy’s followers?

PETER: No, I am not.

NARRATOR: Now the night was cold, so the attendants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were warming themselves. Peter also was with them as well, keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings. Jesus answered:

JESUS: I have spoken publicly to everyone; I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple area where the whole Jewish people congregates. I have said nothing in

secret. So why do you question me? Ask those who have heard me. Ask them what I said to them — they know what I said.

NARRATOR: When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing by slapped him and said:

SPEAKER ONE: Is this how you answer the high priest?

JESUS: If I have said anything wrong, point it out; but if I am right in what I said, why do you strike me?

NARRATOR: Then Annas sent him, still shackled, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there, warming himself. Others asked him:

SPEAKER TWO: Are you not one of his disciples?

PETER: I am not.

NARRATOR: One of the attendants of the high priest, a relative of the attendant whose ear Peter had severed, spoke up:

SPEAKER TWO: Did I not see you in the garden with him?

NARRATOR: Again, Peter denied it. At that moment a rooster crowed.

At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. The Temple authorities did not enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover Seder. So Pilate went out to them and asked:

PILATE: What charges do you bring against this person?

SPEAKER THREE: We would not have brought him to you if he were not a criminal.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

PILATE: Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own Law.

SPEAKER THREE: We do not have the power to put anyone to death.

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill what Jesus had said about the way he was going to die.

So Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus:

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS: Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?

PILATE: Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?

JESUS: My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world.

PILATE: So you are a King?

JESUS: You say I am a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.

PILATE: Truth? What is truth?

NARRATOR: With that, Pilate went outside and spoke to the people:

PILATE: I find no guilt in him. But, according to your custom, I always release a prisoner at the Passover. Do you want me to release the ‘King of the Jews’?

NARRATOR: They answered:

ALL: Not him. We want Barabbas!

NARRATOR: Barabbas was a robber.

So Pilate ordered that Jesus be flogged. Then the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They went up to him repeatedly and said:

SPEAKER ONE: All hail the King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: And they struck him in the face.

Pilate came outside once more and said to the crowd:

PILATE: Look, I will bring him out here to make you understand that I find no guilt in him.

NARRATOR: So Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, and Pilate said:

PILATE: Look upon the one you accuse!

NARRATOR: When the chief priests and the Temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted:

ALL: Crucify him! Crucify him!

PILATE: Do it yourself. I find no reason to condemn him.

SPEAKER THREE: We have a law that says he ought to die because he claimed to be the Only Begotten of God.

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid. He went back into the Praetorium and asked Jesus:

PILATE: Where do you come from?

NARRATOR: Jesus did not answer.

PILATE: You refuse to speak? Bear in mind that I have the power to release you — and the power to crucify you.

(continued)

JESUS: You would have no authority over me unless it had been given to you by God. Therefore the person who handed me over to you has the greater sin.

NARRATOR: Upon hearing this, Pilate sought to set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted:

ALL: If you set him free, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who claims to be a king defies Caesar.

NARRATOR: Hearing these words,

Pilate took Jesus outside and seated himself on the judge’s seat at the place called the Pavement — “Gabbatha,” in Hebrew.

Now it was almost noon on Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the people:

PILATE: Here is your king!

ALL: Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!

PILATE: Do you want me to crucify your king?

SPEAKER THREE: We have no king but Caesar!

NARRATOR: Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull — in Hebrew, “Golgotha.” There they crucified him, along with two others, one on either side of Jesus.

Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross; it read: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The notice, in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, was read by many people, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The chief priests said to Pilate:

SPEAKER THREE: Do not write ‘King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This one said, I am King of the Jews.’

PILATE: I have written what I have written.

NARRATOR: After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothing and divided it into four pieces, one piece for each soldier. They also took the seamless robe. The soldiers said to one another:

SPEAKER ONE: Let us not tear it. We can throw dice to see who will get it.

NARRATOR: This happened in order to fulfill the scripture, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing, they cast lots.” And this is what they did.

Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother; his mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas; and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother:

JESUS: Here is your son.

NARRATOR: Then he said to his disciple:

JESUS: Here is your mother.

NARRATOR: From that moment, the disciple took her into his household.

After this, Jesus knew that now all was completed, and to fulfill scripture perfectly, he said:

JESUS: I am thirsty.

NARRATOR: There was a jar of cheap wine nearby, so they put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and raised it to his lips. Jesus took the wine and said:

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

JESUS: It is finished.

NARRATOR: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(All kneel for a moment in prayer)

NARRATOR: Since it was Preparation Day, the Temple authorities asked Pilate to let them to break the legs of those crucified, and take their bodies from the crosses. They requested this to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the Sabbath, since that particular Sabbath was a solemn feast day.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one and then the other who had been crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, so they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced Jesus' side with a lance, and immediately blood and water poured out.

This testimony has been given by an eyewitness whose word is reliable; the witness knows that this testimony is the truth, so that

you will believe. These things were done to fulfill the scripture, "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again, another scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus — but a secret one, for fear of the Temple authorities — asked Pilate for permission to remove the body of Jesus, and Pilate granted it.

So Joseph came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well — the same one who had first come to Jesus by night — and he brought about one hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the Jewish burial custom.

There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and the tomb was nearby, they buried Jesus there.

No acclamation concludes the Passion reading. A short homily should be given.

EASTER VIGIL

NOTES: The Vigil Mass takes place — at an hour best suited to the needs of the people — sometime after nightfall on Saturday and before dawn on Sunday. Nine readings are assigned to the Vigil, but the number may be reduced if circumstances so dictate. Three Old Testament readings should precede the Epistle and Gospel; at least two must be read; and the Third Reading (Exodus 14) must always be used.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1 — 2:2

The beginning of the book of Genesis.

In the beginning,
YHWH created
the heavens and the earth.
But the earth became chaos and emptiness,
and darkness came over the face of the Deep —
yet the Spirit of YHWH was brooding
over the surface of the waters.

Then YHWH said, “Light: Be!” and light was. YHWH saw that light was good, and YHWH separated light from darkness. YHWH called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

Then YHWH said, “Now, an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: YHWH made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. YHWH called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed — the second day.

Then YHWH said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. YHWH called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the waters “Sea.” And YHWH saw that this was good. Then YHWH said, “Earth: produce vegetation — plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree

that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed, and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And YHWH saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the third day.

Then YHWH said, “Now, lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.” So it was: YHWH made the two great lights, the greater one to illumine the day, and a lesser to illumine the night.

Then YHWH made the stars as well, placing them in the expanse of the sky, to shed light on the earth, to govern both day and night, and separate light from darkness. And YHWH saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the fourth day.

(continued)

YHWH then said, “Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!” And so it was: YHWH created great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. YHWH saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the waters of the seas! Birds, abound on the earth!” Evening came, and morning followed — the fifth day.

Then YHWH said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul — cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: YHWH made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and YHWH saw that this was good.

Then YHWH said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.” Humankind was created as YHWH’s reflection: In the divine image

YHWH created them; female and male, YHWH made them.

YHWH blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth — and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!” YHWH then told them, “Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food; and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground — everything that has a living soul in it — I give all the green plants for food.” So it was. YHWH looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good — very good. Evening came, and morning followed — the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.

On the seventh day YHWH finished all the work of creation, and so, on that seventh day, YHWH rested.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then YHWH tested Abraham.

“Abraham!” YHWH called. “Here I am,” Abraham replied.

“Take your son,” YHWH said, “your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, ‘Seeing.’ Offer him there as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.”

Rising early the next morning, Abraham saddled a donkey and took along two workers and his son Isaac. Abraham chopped wood for the burnt offering, and started on the journey to the place YHWH showed them. On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to the workers, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.”

Abraham took wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. In his own hands he carried the fire and the knife. Then the two of them went on alone.

Isaac said, “Father!” “Here I am, my child,” Abraham replied.

“Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Abraham answered, “My child, YHWH will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”

Then the two of them went on together. When they arrived at the place YHWH had pointed out, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he tied up his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.

But the angel of YHWH called to him from heaven: “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am!” he replied.

“Do not raise your hand against the boy!” the angel said. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how deeply you revere YHWH, since you did not refuse me your son, your only child.”

Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child. Abraham called the place “YHWH Provides,” and so is said to this day: “On this mountain YHWH provides.”

The angel of God called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said,

“I swear by myself —
it is YHWH who speaks —
because you have done this,
because you have not refused me your son, your only child,
I will shower blessings on you;
I will make your descendants as many
as the stars of heaven
and the grains of sand on the seashore.
Your descendants will possess
the gates of their enemies,
and in your descendants
all the nations of the earth will find blessing —
all this because you obeyed my command.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Third Reading: Exodus 14:15-15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus.

YHWH said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to march on.

And you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea, and split the sea in two, so that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. I will make the hearts of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will come in after you, and I will glorify myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all the army, chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians will know that I am YHWH, when I glorify myself over Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

Then the angel of YHWH, who was leading the Israelites, moved to their rear — the pillar of cloud left the front of their number and took up position behind them, between the Israelites and the Egyptians. All during the night the cloud provided light to one side and darkness to the other side, so that there was no contact between them.

Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and YHWH swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water walled up on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them into the midst of the sea. At dawn, YHWH looked down upon the Egyptian forces from the column of fiery cloud, and threw the army into confusion and panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they could hardly turn.

The Egyptians turned to flee from the Israelites, saying, “Their God fights for them against us!”

Then YHWH told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the water flow back upon the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers.” So at sunrise, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the waters rolled back in. As the Egyptians fled, YHWH hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, covering the chariots and the charioteers — Pharaoh’s whole army, who had followed the Israelites into the sea — not one of them survived. But the Israelites passed through, walking dry-shod in the sea, with the water like a wall, on their right and on their left. Thus YHWH saved Israel on that day from the power of Egypt. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that YHWH had shown against them, the people held YHWH in awe; and put their faith in YHWH and in Moses, YHWH’s trusted servant.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to YHWH:

To you, YHWH, I sing:

you have triumphed powerfully.

Horse and charioteer

you have flung into the sea!

You are our strength and our courage;

You have become our deliverance.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 54:5-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For now your Creator will be your spouse,
whose name is Most High.
Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,
called the God of all the earth.
For YHWH calls you back from your grief —
a young wife abandoned by her husband.
I did abandon you for a brief moment,
but with much tenderness I will take you back.
In an outburst of wrath, I hid my face momentarily;
but with everlasting love I will gather you,
says YHWH, your Redeemer.
I am now as I was in the days of Noah
when I swore that Noah's waters
would never flood the earth again.
So now I swear that I will not be angry with you,
nor will I make threats against you.
For the mountains may disappear and the hills may depart,
but my love will never leave you
And my covenant of peace will never be shaken,
says YHWH, who has mercy on you.
O afflicted one, storm-battered and un-consoled,
I will pave your roads with carnelians,
and lay sapphires as our foundation stones.
I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of crystal,
and all your walls of precious stones.
Your children will all be taught by YHWH;
the prosperity of your children will be great.
In justice you will be established,
far from the fear of oppression,
where destruction cannot come near you.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat;
 come, buy wine and milk, without money, without cost!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
 your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare.
Bend your ear and come to me,
 listen, that you may have life.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you —
 the faithful mercies shown to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
 and a nation which does not know you
 will come hurrying to you — for the sake of YHWH,
 the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you.
Seek YHWH while YHWH is still to be found,
 call to YHWH, while YHWH is still near.
Let the wicked abandon their ways,
 the evil their thoughts.
Let them turn back to YHWH, who will take pity on them,
 to YHWH, who will generously forgive.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says YHWH.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so high are my ways above your ways
 and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it fertile and fruitful,
 giving seed to the sower and bread for food,
 so will my word be
 that goes forth from my mouth.
It will not return to me empty,
 but will carry out my will,
 achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Sixth Reading: Baruch 3:9-15, 32-44

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Listen, Israel, to commands that bring life;
hear, and learn what knowledge means.
Why, Israel, why are you in the country of your enemies,
growing older and older in an alien land,
sharing defilement with the dead,
reckoned with those who go to the nether world?
— Because you have forsaken the fountain of Wisdom!
Had you walked in the way of YHWH,
you would have lived in peace forever.
Learn where knowledge is,
where strength, where understanding,
and so learn where length of days is, where life,
where the light of the eyes, and where peace.
But who has found out where Wisdom lives,
who has entered her treasure house?
Yet the One who knows all things knows her;
by the Creator's knowledge she has been embraced —
the One who established the earth for all time,
and filled it with four-footed beasts;
the One who dismisses the light, and it departs,
calls it, and it obeys, trembling;
before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice;
when they are called, they answer, "Here we are!"
shining with joy for their Maker.
Such is YHWH, to whom no other is to be compared;
YHWH has grasped the whole way of knowledge,
and confided it to Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
the trusted and faithful ones, to Israel, the well-beloved.
Now Wisdom has appeared on earth,
and moves among the people.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-28

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus the Word of YHWH came to me: “When the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore, I poured out my fury upon them, because of the blood which they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations, wherever they came, they served to profane my holy Name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of YHWH, yet they had to leave their land.’ So I have relented because of my holy Name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came.

Therefore, I say to the house of Israel: Thus says YHWH — not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy Name which you profaned among the

nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great Name, profaned among the nations — for you are the ones who have profaned it. Thus, the nations will know that I am the Most High,” says YHWH, “because in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you and cleanse you from all your impurities; I will cleanse you from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that when we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death? We have been buried with Jesus through baptism, and we joined with Jesus in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by God's glory, we too might live a new life.

For if we have been united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's death, we will also be united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's resurrection. We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with Christ to make the body of sin and failure completely

powerless, to free us from the slavery to sin: for when people die, they have finished with sin.

But we believe that, having died with Christ, we will also live with Christ — knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again: death is now powerless over our Savior. When Christ died, Christ died to sin, once for all, so that the life Christ lives now is life in God. In this way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin — but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*This is the day Our God has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb.

Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you."

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

So Peter said to them, “I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality — rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.

“You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the

countryside and in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God — that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name.”

The Word of God R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (Option 1): Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Since you have been resurrected with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms, where Christ is seated at God’s right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things of earth. After all,

you died, and now your life is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ — who is your life — is revealed, you too will be revealed with Christ in glory.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (Option 2): 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

This boasting of yours is an ugly thing. Do you not know that even a little yeast has its effect all through the dough? Get rid of the old yeast to make for yourselves fresh dough, unleavened bread, as it were; Christ

our Passover has been sacrificed. So let us celebrate the feast — not with the old yeast, the yeast of corruption and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*This is the day Our God has made;
let us rejoice and be glad!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-9*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple — the one Jesus loved — and told them, “The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We do not know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side-by-side, but then the other disciple

outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they did not understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

*The Gospel from the Easter Vigil may be substituted for this.

Gospel Reading (Alternative for afternoon Mass): Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus — which was about seven miles from Jerusalem — discussing all that had happened as they went.

While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?”

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened these past few days?”

Jesus said to them, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people — how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him.

We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today — the third day since these things happened — some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and did not find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be

just as the women said, but they did not find Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Did the Messiah not have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture that referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It is nearly evening — the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, “Were our hearts not burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It is true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The community of believers was of one mind and one heart. None of them claimed anything as their own; rather, everything was held in common. The apostles continued to testify with great power to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they were all given great

respect; nor was anyone needy among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them and give the money to the apostles. It was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-7

A reading from the first letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah
has been born of God.

Everyone who loves God
loves the One who has come from God.

We can be sure that we love God's children
when we love God and do what God has commanded.

The love of God consists of this:
that we keep God's commandments.
And these commandments are not burdensome.

Everyone born of God conquers the world,
and the power that has conquered the world
is our faith.

Who then can overcome the world?
The one who believes
that Jesus is the Only Begotten of God.

Jesus Christ came by water and blood —
not by water alone,
but with water and blood.

It is the Spirit who testifies to this,
and she is truth.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I am sending you.”

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas — nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin” — was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen Jesus!”

Thomas’ answer was, “I will never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks, and my hand into the spear wound.”

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.”

Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!”

Thomas said in response,
“My Savior and my God!”

Jesus then said,
“You have become a believer
because you saw me.

Blessed are they who have not seen
and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs as well — signs not recorded here — in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said, “It is the God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified Jesus — the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. You disowned the Holy and Just One and asked instead for the release of a murderer. You put to death the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead — a fact to which we are witnesses.

“Yet I know, my sisters and brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did. God has brought to fulfillment by this means what was announced long ago by the prophets: that the Messiah would suffer. Therefore, reform your lives! Turn to God, that your sins may be wiped away, and that God may send a season of refreshment. Then Our God will

send you Jesus, the preordained Messiah, whom Heaven must keep until the restoration of all things comes, which God promised through the holy prophets in ancient times. Moses, for example, said, ‘Our God will raise up a prophet like me for you, from among your own kinfolk. You must listen to everything this prophet tells you. Anyone who does not listen is to be cut off ruthlessly from the people.’ In fact, all the prophets who have ever spoken, from Samuel onward, have predicted these days.

“You are the heirs of the prophets, the heirs of the Covenant the Most High made with our ancestors when God told Sarah and Abraham, ‘In your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed.’ It was for you that God raised up and sent this Jesus, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of John.

My little ones,
I am writing this to keep you from sin.
But if anyone should sin,
we have an Advocate with God —
Jesus Christ, who is just.
Jesus is the full payment for our sins,
and not for our sins only,
but for those of the whole world.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping the commandments.
Anyone who says, “I know God,”
and does not keep the commandments
is a liar and refuses to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey God’s word,
God’s love comes to perfection in that person.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

*Jesus, our Savior, make your Word plain to us,
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The disciples recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of bread.

While they were still talking about this, Jesus stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, “Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see — a ghost does not have flesh and bones as I do.” After saying this, Jesus showed them the wounds.

They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, “Do you have

anything here to eat?” After being given a piece of cooked fish, Jesus ate in their presence.

Then Jesus said to them, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and psalms had to be fulfilled.”

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, “That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke up: “Leaders of the people! Elders! If we must answer today for a good deed done to a person who was unable to walk, and explain how this person has been made whole, then you and all the people of Israel must realize that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified

and whom God raised from the dead. In the power of that Name, this person stands before you perfectly sound. This Jesus is ‘the stone rejected by the builders that has become the cornerstone.’ There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other name under heaven given to the human race by which we must be saved.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love Abba God has lavished on us
in letting us be called God’s children!
Yet that in fact is what we are.
The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized God.
My dear friends,
now we are God’s children;
but it has not been revealed
what we are to become in the future.
We know that when it comes to light
we will be like God,
for we will see God
as God really is.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*I am the good shepherd, says our Savior;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

I am the good shepherd.
A good shepherd would die for the sheep.
The hired hand, who is neither shepherd
nor owner of the sheep,
catches sight of the wolf coming
and runs away, leaving the sheep
to be scattered
or snatched by the wolf.
That is because the hired hand works only for pay
and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep
and my sheep know me,
in the same way Abba God knows me
and I know God —
and for these sheep
I will lay down my life.
I have other sheep
that do not belong to this fold —
I must lead them, too,
and they will hear my voice.
And then there will be one flock,
one shepherd.
This is why Abba God loves me —
because I lay down my life
only to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down freely.
I have power to lay it down,
and I have the power to take it up again.
This command I received from my Abba.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Saul arrived back in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples there, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and introduced him to the apostles. He explained to them how, on his journey, Saul had seen and conversed with Jesus, and how ever since that encounter, Saul had been speaking out fearlessly in the name of Jesus at Damascus.

Saul stayed on with them, moving freely about Jerusalem and expressing himself

quite openly in the name of Christ. He even addressed the Greek-speaking Jews and debated with them. They responded, however, by trying to kill him. When the sisters and brothers learned of this, some of them took Saul down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria, the church was at peace, building itself up, living in reverence of God and growing in numbers with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of John.

My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk — it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we will know we belong to the truth; this is how we will be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before

God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand — because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight. The commandments are these: that we believe in the name of our God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*Live in me and let me live in you, says Our God;
My branches bear much fruit.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples:

I am the true vine
and my Abba is the vine-grower
who cuts off every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
but prunes the fruitful ones
to increase their yield.
You have been pruned already,
thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.
Live on in me,
as I do in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself
apart from the vine,
neither can you bear fruit apart from me.
I am the vine;
you are the branches.
Those who live in me and I in them
will bear abundant fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing.
Those who do not live in me
are like withered, rejected branches,
to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned.
If you live on in me,
and my words live on in you,
ask whatever you want
and it will be done for you.
My Abba will be glorified
if you bear much fruit
and thus prove to be my disciples.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him, dropped to his knees and bowed low. As he helped Cornelius to his feet, Peter said, "Get up! I am a human being, just like you!"

Peter said to Cornelius and the people assembled in the house, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality — rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God."

Peter had not finished speaking these words when the Holy Spirit descended upon all who were listening to the message. The

Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were surprised that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also, whom they could hear speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter asked, "What can stop these people who have received the Holy Spirit, even as we have, from being baptized with water?" So he gave orders that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. After this was done, they asked him to stay on with them for a few days.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved,

let us love one another
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten of God
and has knowledge of God.

You who do not love have known nothing of God,
for God is love.

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:
by sending the Only Begotten into the world,
that we might have faith through the Anointed One.

Love, then, consists in this:
not that we have loved God,
but that God has loved us
and has sent the Only Begotten
to be an offering for our sins.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

*If you love me, you will hold to my words,
and God who sent me will love you;
We will come to Our God and there we will make our home together.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples:

As my Abba has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Live on in my love.

And you will live on in my love
if you keep my commandments,
just as I live on in Abba God's love
and have kept God's commandments.

I tell you all this that my joy may be yours
and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

There is no greater love
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

And you are my friends,
if you do what I command you.

I no longer speak of you as subordinates,
because a subordinate does not know a superior's business.

Instead I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learned from Abba God.

It was not you who chose me;
it was I who chose you
to go forth and bear fruit.

Your fruit must endure,
so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name,
God will give you.

This command I give you:
that you love one another.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

ASCENSION THURSDAY

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

The beginning of the Acts of the Apostles.

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles — confirmed through many convincing proofs — over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. “John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

While meeting together, they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It is not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans — why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you — this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a Spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator.

I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you — the promised glories that God’s holy people will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God’s

power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God’s right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named — not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under Christ’s feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ’s body; it is the fullness of the One who fills all of creation.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*Go and teach all people my Gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus told the Eleven, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.

“The one who believes it and is baptized will be saved; the one who refuses to believe it will be condemned. Signs such as these will accompany those who have professed their faith: in my name they will expel demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will be able to handle poisonous snakes; if they

drink anything deadly, it will not harm them; and the sick upon whom they lay their hands will recover.”

Then, after speaking to them, the savior was taken up into heaven and was seated at God’s right hand. The disciples went forth and preached everywhere. Christ worked with them and confirmed their message through the signs that accompanied them.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day Peter stood up in the midst of the believers, a gathering of perhaps a hundred and twenty. “Sisters and brothers,” he said, “the saying in scripture, uttered long ago by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David, was destined to be fulfilled in Judas, the one who guided those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and had been given a share in this ministry.

“But David wrote in the Book of Psalms, ‘Let his encampment be desolate; may no one dwell on it.’ And, ‘Let another take his office.’ “It is necessary, therefore, that one of those who accompanied us all the time Jesus

moved among us, from the baptism of John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, should be named as witness with us to the Resurrection.”

At that, they nominated two — Joseph, called Barsabbas or Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “O God, you can read the hearts of people. Show us which of these two you have chosen to occupy this apostolic ministry, replacing Judas, who turned away and went his own way.” They then drew lots between the two. The choice fell to Matthias, who was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 John 4:11-16

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved,
if God has loved us so,
we must have the same love for one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet if we love one another,
God dwells in us,
and God's love is brought to perfection in us.
The way we know that we remain in God and God in us
is that we have been given the Spirit.
We have seen for ourselves, and can testify,
that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world.
When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten,
God dwells in them
and they in God.
We have come to know and to believe
in the love God has for us.
God is love,
and those who abide in love
abide in God,
and God in them.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — *continued*

ALLELUIA!

*Jesus said, "I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice."*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 17:11-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
Abba, holy God,
protect those whom you have given me
with your Name —
the Name that you gave me —
that they may be one, even as we are one.
As long as I was with them,
I guarded them with your Name,
which you gave me.
I kept careful watch,
and not one of them was lost,
except for the one who was destined to be lost
in fulfillment of scripture.
Now I am coming to you;
I say all this while I am still in the world
that they may have my joy
fulfilled in themselves.
I gave them your word,
and the world has hated them for it
because they do not belong to the world,
any more than I belong to the world.
I do not ask you to take them out of the world,
but to guard them from the Evil One.
They are not of the world,
any more than I am of the world.
Consecrate them —
make them holy through the truth —
for your word is truth.
As you have sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world;
I consecrate myself now for their sakes,
that they may be made holy in truth.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

PENTECOST VIGIL

First Reading (Option 1): Genesis 11:1-9

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Throughout the earth, people spoke the same language, and used the same words. Now as they moved eastward, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them in the fire." For bricks they used stone, and for mortar they used bitumen. "Come," they said, "let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top can reach into heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, to keep us from being scattered about the whole earth."

Now the Most High came down to see the city and the tower these mortals had built.

"They are all a single people with a single language," said YHWH. "And this is but the start of their undertakings! There will be nothing too hard for them to do. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so that they can no longer understand one another." So the Most High scattered them over the face of the earth, and they stopped building the city. It was named Babel, therefore, because YHWH made humans babble different languages throughout the world. It was from there that the Most High scattered them over the whole earth.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

First Reading (Option 2): Exodus 19:3-8,16-20

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses then went up to YHWH, and the Most High called him from the mountain, saying, "Say this to the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, declare this to the daughters and sons of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my Covenant, you will be my very own, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. I will count you a priestly people, a consecrated nation.' Those are the words you are to speak to the daughters and sons of Israel."

So Moses went and summoned the leaders of the people, putting before them all that the Most High had bidden him. Then all the people answered as one, "All that YHWH has

said, we will do." And Moses took the people's reply back to the Most High.

On the morning of the third day, there was thunder and lightning and a dense cloud on the mountain, and such a loud trumpet blast that inside the camp all the people trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet YHWH, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. The mountain of Sinai was entirely wrapped in smoke because YHWH had descended on it in the form of fire. Like smoke from a furnace the smoke went up, and the whole mountain shook violently. Louder and louder grew the sound of the trumpet. Moses spoke, and YHWH answered him with peals of thunder. YHWH came down on the mountain of Sinai, on the mountaintop, and called Moses to the top of the mountain; and Moses went up.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

First Reading (Option 3): Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of YHWH was laid on me, and the Spirit of the Most High carried me away and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. I was made to walk up and down among them; there were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley, and they were very dry. Then YHWH said to me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?” I said, “Only you know, Sovereign God.” So YHWH said, “Prophesy over these bones. Say, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH. YHWH says this to these bones: I am now going to make breath enter you and you will live. I will put sinews on you, I will make flesh grow on you, I will cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am YHWH.’ ”

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering, and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but

there was no breath in them. Then YHWH said to me, “Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, mere mortal! Say to the breath, ‘YHWH says this: Come from the four winds, O breath; breathe on these dead and let them live!’ ” I prophesied as ordered, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great and immense army.

Then YHWH said, “These bones are the whole house of Israel. They keep saying, ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone. We are as good as dead.’ So prophesy. Say to them, ‘YHWH says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the land of Israel. And you will know that I am the Most High, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I will put my breath in you, and you will live. And I will resettle you on your own soil, and you will know that I, YHWH, have said and done this — it is I who speaks.’ ”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

First Reading (Option 4): Joel 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

After this, I will pour out
my Spirit on all the people.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your old people will dream dreams
and your young will see visions.
Even on the slaves, women and men,
will I pour out my Spirit in those days.
I will display portents in heaven and on earth,
blood and fire and columns of smoke.
The sun will be turned into darkness
and the moon into blood,
before the day of YHWH dawns,
that great and terrible day.
All who call on the name of YHWH will be saved,
for on Mount Zion there will be some who have escaped,
as YHWH has said,
and in Jerusalem some survivors whom YHWH will call.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit — we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for

what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness. For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit expresses our plea with groanings too deep for words. And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because her intercessions for God's holy people are made according to the mind of God.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

PENTECOST VIGIL — continued

ALLELUIA!

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful;
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-39

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“Any who are thirsty,
let them come to me and drink!
Those who believe in me, as the scripture says,
‘From their innermost being
will flow rivers of living water.’”

Here Jesus was referring to the Spirit, which those who came to believe were to receive — though she had not yet been given, since Jesus had not been glorified.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native

languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears their words in our native tongue?"

We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome — all Jews, or converts to Judaism — Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!"

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

It is for this reason that I want you to understand that no one can be speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit and say, "Curse Jesus"; by the same token, no one can say, "Jesus Christ reigns supreme," unless under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit. There is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. There is a variety of outcomes, but the same God who

is working in all of them. To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts — many though they are — comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

PENTECOST SUNDAY — continued

ALLELUIA!

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful;
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be

with you. As Abba God sent me, so I am sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone's sins,
they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins,
they are retained."

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people, “Ask this question, now, looking to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time when YHWH created people on earth forward: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything like it ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living YHWH speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and live to tell of it? Has any god before ever ventured to take one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, by signs and wonders,

by war with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, by the power of terror, as YHWH did in Egypt before your eyes?

“Know this today, therefore, and take it into your hearts: YHWH is God indeed, in heaven above and on earth below, and there is no other. Keep the laws and commandments of the Most High as I give them to you this day, so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that YHWH gives you forever.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. For the Spirit that God has given you does not enslave you and trap you in fear; instead, through the Spirit God has adopted you as children, and by that Spirit we cry out, “Abba!” God’s

Spirit joins with our spirit to declare that we are God’s children. And if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing in Christ’s suffering and sharing in Christ’s glory.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*When I behold your heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and stars that you set in place —
Who are we that you should be mindful of us!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Eleven made their way to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had summoned them. At the sight of the risen Christ they fell down in homage, though some doubted what they were seeing. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words:

All authority has been given me
both in heaven and on earth.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations.
Baptize them in the name
of Abba God,
and of the Only Begotten,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Teach them to carry out
everything I have commanded you.
And know that I am with you always,
even until the end of the world!

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

A reading from the book of Exodus.

When Moses came and told the people the commands of YHWH, and the ordinances, they answered with one voice, "We will do everything that YHWH has decreed." Moses then wrote down all the commands of YHWH.

Early the next morning he arose and built an altar at the mountain's base, with twelve standing stones, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Then Moses directed young people among the Israelites to make burnt offerings and to sacrifice young bulls as communion offerings to YHWH.

Moses took half of the blood of the offerings and put it into bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar.

Then, taking the scroll of the Covenant, Moses read it aloud to the people. The people answered, "We will heed and do all that YHWH has decreed."

Then Moses splashed the blood over the people, saying, "This is the blood of the Covenant that YHWH made with you in giving you these words."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

But Christ, who came as high priest of the good things that came to be, entered once and for all into the greater and more perfect tabernacle, the one made not by human hands, that is, not belonging to this creation. It was not with the blood of goats and calves, but with our Savior's own blood that Christ entered the holy place, and once and for all obtained eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of the blood of goats and bulls and a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who

are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, a perfect self-sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, cleanse our consciences from dead works, to worship the living God!

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that the people who were called by God may receive the eternal inheritance that was promised. This happens because a death has taken place that cancels the sins committed under the first Covenant.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*I am the living bread from Heaven, says Our Savior;
They who eat this bread will live forever!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 14:12-16,22-26

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the paschal lamb, the disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you wish us to go to prepare the Passover supper for you?"

He directed two of the disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and you will come upon a man carrying a water jar. Follow him into a house he enters and say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is my guestroom? I want to eat the Passover meal there with my disciples."' "

Then you will be shown an upstairs room, spacious, furnished, with everything in order. That is the place you are to get ready for us."

Then the disciples went off. When they reached the city, they found it just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover supper.

During the meal, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body." He likewise took a cup, gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. Jesus said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the Covenant, which will be poured out on behalf of many. The truth is, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until the day I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

After singing songs of praise, they walked out to the Mount of Olives.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The lamp of YHWH had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near Ark of the Covenant. Then YHWH called to Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli saying, "You called. Here I am!" Eli said, "I did not call you. Now go back to sleep." He went back to sleep.

A second time YHWH called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli. "Here I am," Samuel said, "You called me." Eli repeated, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel had not yet encountered YHWH, and the word of YHWH had not yet been revealed to him. YHWH called Samuel

a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said once more, "Here I am. You called me."

Then Eli realized that YHWH was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called, say, 'Speak, YHWH, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to sleep.

And YHWH called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Yes, YHWH, I am listening."

As Samuel grew, YHWH was with him. None of Samuel's words remained unfulfilled.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

"Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will do away with them both in the end" — but the body is not for immorality; it is for God, and God is for the body. God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will raise us also by the same power.

Do you not see that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to Christ becomes one spirit with Christ.

Shun lewd conduct. Every other sin a person commits is outside that person's body, but sexual sins are sins against one's own body. You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within you — the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

The next day, John was by the Jordan again with two of his disciples. Seeing Jesus walk by, John said, "Look! There's the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what John said and followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned around and noticed these disciples following, he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They replied, "Rabbi" — which means "Teacher" — "where are you staying?"

"Come and see," Jesus answered. So they went to see where he was staying, and they

spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the two who had followed Jesus after hearing John was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing Andrew did was to find Simon Peter and say, "We have found the Messiah!" — which means "the Anointed One."

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, who looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon, begot of Jonah; I will call you 'Rock' — that is, "Peter."

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jonah.

The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed,

“Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.”

So the people of Nineveh believed in YHWH; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

YHWH saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And YHWH relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to

laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing — for the world, as we know it, is passing away.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds and believe this Good News!"

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, because they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." They

immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John, begot of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order.

Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

YHWH will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; to that prophet you must listen. It was this that you asked of YHWH, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, "Let us not hear again the voice of YHWH, our God, nor see this great fire again, or we will die."

And YHWH said to me, "This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their people, into whose mouth

I will put my words, and that person will tell them all that I command. If any person will not listen to the words that my prophet speaks in my Name, I myself will call that person to answer for this. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my Name a message that I have not commanded to be spoken, or speaks in the name of other gods — that prophet will die."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-34, 35

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I would like you to be free of all worries. Unmarried people are busy with God's affairs, and are concerned with pleasing God, but married people are busy with this world's demands and occupied with pleasing their spouses. This means they are divided.

I tell you this for your own good. I have no desire to place restrictions on you, but I do want to promote what is good, what will help you to devote yourselves entirely to God.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

They came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. The people were spellbound by his teaching, because Jesus taught with an authority that was unlike their religious scholars.

Suddenly a person with an unclean spirit appeared in their synagogue. It shrieked: “What do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!”

Jesus rebuked the spirit sharply: “Be quiet! Come out of that person!” At that the unclean spirit convulsed the possessed one violently, and with a loud shriek it came out.

All who looked on were amazed. They began to ask one another, “What is this? A new teaching, and with such authority! This person even gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey!” Immediately news of Jesus spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Job.

Is not a person's life in this world nothing but drudgery?
Are our days here not like those of a hired hand?
Like a laborer vainly longing for shade
or a hired hand waiting for meager wages,
so I am assigned months of futility;
my only possessions are nights of misery.
When I go to bed I wonder, "How long before I get up?"
— but the night drags on, as I toss and turn.
My days pass as swiftly as a weaver's shuttle,
and they come to an end without hope.
YHWH, remember that my life is just a breath,
and I will never experience joy again.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Not that I do boast about preaching the Gospel; I am under compulsion and have no choice. I am ruined if I do not preach the Gospel! If I do it willingly, I have my reward; if unwillingly, I am nonetheless entrusted with a charge. What then is my reward? It is simply this: that when preaching, I offer the Gospel free of charge and do not assert the authority the Gospel gives me. Although I am not bound to

anyone, I put myself into the service of all so as to win over as many as possible.

To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might save at least some of them. In fact, I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessing.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Upon leaving the synagogue, Jesus entered Simon's and Andrew's house with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told Jesus about her.

Jesus went over to her, took her by the hand and helped her up, and the fever left her. Then she went about her work.

After sunset, as evening drew on, they brought to Jesus all who were ill and possessed by demons. Everyone in the town crowded around the door. Jesus healed many who were sick with different diseases, and cast out many demons. But Jesus would not

permit the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.

Rising early the next morning, Jesus went off to a lonely place in the desert and prayed there. Simon and some companions managed to find Jesus and said to him, "Everybody is looking for you!"

Jesus said to them, "Let us move on to the neighboring villages so that I may proclaim the Good News there also. That is what I have come to do." So Jesus went into their synagogues proclaiming the Good News and expelling demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

YHWH told Moses and Aaron:

“When one of you has a swelling, an inflammation, or a shiny spot on your skin that could develop into an infectious skin disease, you must go to a priest, either to Aaron or one of Aaron’s heirs.

“If you are diseased and ceremonially unclean, the priest must pronounce you ceremonially unclean.

“When you have an infectious skin disease, you must wear torn clothes, let your hair become unkempt, and cover the lower half of your face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’

As long as you have the infection you remain ceremonially unclean. You must live alone. You must live outside the camp.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Whatever you eat or drink — whatever you do — do it all for the glory of God. Give no offense, whether to Jew or to Greek or to the church of God, just as I try to please

everyone in any way I can. I do this by seeking not my own advantage, but that of the many, that they may be saved.

Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

A person with leprosy approached Jesus, knelt down and begged, “If you are willing, you can heal me.”

Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out a hand, touched the person with leprosy, and said, “I am willing. Be cleansed.”

Immediately the leprosy disappeared, and the person with the disease was cured. Jesus gave a stern warning and sent the person off. “Not a word to anyone,” Jesus said, “Go off and present yourself to the

priest and make an offering for your healing as Moses commanded, as a testimony to the religious authorities.”

But the person who had been healed went off and began to proclaim the whole matter freely, making the story public. As a result it was no longer possible for Jesus to enter a town openly, and Jesus stayed in lonely places. Even so, people kept coming to him from all directions.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

YHWH says:

Forget the events of the past,
Ignore the things of long ago!
Look, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth — can you not see it?
I am making a road in the desert
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland.
So these people whom I formed for myself
might declare my praise.
Yet you did not call upon me, O Leah and Rachel and Jacob!
You grew weary of me, O Israel!
You did not buy me any fragrant calamus reeds with your money,
or sate me with the fat of your sacrifices.
Instead, you burdened me with your sins,
and wearied me with your crimes.
Who am I? I am the one who wipes out your offenses!
For my own sake, I do not remember your wrongs.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

As sure as God is faithful, I declare that my word to you is not “yes” one minute and “no” the next.

Jesus Christ, whom Silvanus, Timothy, and I preached to you as the Only Begotten of God, was not alternately “yes” and “no”; Jesus was never anything but “yes.” No matter how many promises God

has made, they are “yes” in Christ. Therefore it is through Jesus that we address our Amen to God when we worship together. God is the One who firmly establishes us along with you in Christ; it is God who anointed us and sealed us, putting the Spirit in our hearts as our bond and guarantee.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus came back to Capernaum after several days, and word spread that he was home. People began to gather in such great numbers that there was no longer any room for them, even around the door.

While Jesus was delivering God's word to them, some people arrived bringing a paralyzed person. The four who carried the invalid were unable to reach Jesus because of the crowd, so they began to open up the roof directly above Jesus. When they had made a hole, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed one was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the sufferer, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

Now some of the religious scholars were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does Jesus talk in that way? He commits

blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus immediately perceived in his spirit that they reasoned this way among themselves and said to them, "Why do you harbor such thoughts? Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed one, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up, pick up your mat and walk?' But so you all may know that the Promised One has authority on earth to forgive sins" — Jesus then turned to the paralyzed person — "I tell you, stand up! Pick up your mat and go home."

The paralyzed person stood up, picked up the mat and walked outside in the sight of everyone. They were awestruck, and all gave praise to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Hosea 2:16-17, 21-22

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

After that, however, I will woo her;
I will lead her into the desert,
speaking tenderly to her heart.
There I will return her vineyards,
and change a valley of trouble into a door of hope.
There she will sing as she did when she was young —
as she did at the time when she came out of Egypt.
I will bind myself to you in love forever —
yes, I will swear myself to you in rightness and justice,
in tender love and in deep compassion.
I swear myself to you in love and faithfulness,
and then you will truly know YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Am I beginning to brag again? Or do I need letters of recommendation to you or from you, as others might? You are my letter, known and read by all, written on your hearts. Clearly you are a letter of Christ that I have delivered, a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh in the heart.

The great confidence we have before God, we have because of Christ. It is not that we are entitled of ourselves to take credit for anything. Our sole credit is from God, who has made us qualified ministers of a new Covenant, a covenant not of a written Law but of Spirit. The written Law kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:18-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees fasted regularly. Some people came to Jesus with the objection, "Why do John's disciples and those of the Pharisees fast while yours do not?"

Jesus replied, "How can wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is still among them? So long as the bridegroom stays with them, they cannot fast. The day will come, when

the bridegroom will be taken away; on that day, they will fast.

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. Otherwise, the patch pulls away from it — the new from the old — and the tear gets worse. Similarly, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If one does, the wine will burst the skins, and both wine and skins will be lost. No, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as YHWH, your God, commanded. For six days you will labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to YHWH, your God. You will do no work that day, neither you nor your daughter nor your son nor your workers — women or men — nor your ox nor your donkey, nor any of your

animals; nor even foreigners among you. Thus your workers — both women and men — will rest as you do. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and that YHWH, your God, brought you out from there with mighty hand and outstretched arm; because of this, YHWH, your God, has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:6-11

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ.

But this treasure we possess is in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; we are full of doubts,

but we never despair. We are persecuted, but never abandoned; we are struck down, but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the death of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live, we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our bodies.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:23 - 3:6

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

One Sabbath day Jesus took a walk through the grain fields, and the disciples began to pick ears of grain as they went along. The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look, why are they doing something on the Sabbath day that is forbidden?”

And Jesus replied, “Did you never read what David did in his time of need when he and his followers were hungry — how David went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the loaves of offering, which only the priests are allowed to eat, and how he also gave some to those with him?”

Then Jesus said to them: “The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. That is why the Chosen One is ruler even of the Sabbath.”

Returning to the synagogue, Jesus met someone who had a withered hand.

Now the religious authorities were watching to see if Jesus would heal the individual on the Sabbath day, as they were hoping for some evidence to use against Jesus. He said to the afflicted one, “Stand and come up front!”

Then he said to them, “Is it permitted to do a good deed on the Sabbath — or an evil one? To preserve life or to destroy it?”

At this they remained silent. Jesus looked around at them with anger, for he was deeply grieved that they had closed their hearts so. Then Jesus said to the person, “Stretch out your hand.” The other did so, and the hand was perfectly restored.

The Pharisees went out and at once began to plot with the Herodians, discussing how to destroy Jesus.

The Good News of Salvation! R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH called to the man: “Where are you?” “I heard you walking in the garden,” replied the man. “I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid.” “Who told you of nakedness? Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I forbade you to eat?” The man replied, “It

was the woman you put beside me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” Then YHWH asked the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman replied, “The snake tempted me, so I ate.”

Then YHWH said to the snake,

“Because you have done this, you are accursed:
lower than the cattle, lower than the wild beasts,
you will crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of one another,
you and the woman, your offspring and hers;
Her offspring will wound you on the head
and you will wound hers in the heel.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

But as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture — “I believed and therefore I spoke” — we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that One who raised Jesus to life will in turn raise us with Jesus, and place you with us in God’s presence. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.

That is why we do not lose heart. And though this physical self of ours may be

falling into decay, the inner self is renewed day by day. These light and momentary troubles train us to carry the weight of an eternal glory that will make these troubles insignificant by comparison. And we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; visible things last only for a time, the invisible are eternal.

For we know that when our earthly tent is folded up, there is waiting for us a house built by God, an everlasting home in the heavens, not made by human hands.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 3:20-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Then Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and the disciples were unable to even eat a meal. When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking that he had lost his mind.

The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons."

Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive. Similarly, if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissension, the Devil is finished and cannot endure. No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under

restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.

"The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus spoke all this because they said, "He is possessed by an unclean spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who is my family?" And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, "This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother."

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

This what YHWH says: "I myself will take a shoot from the top of a cedar and plant it on a lofty and high mountain. I will plant it on the mountain heights of Israel. It will grow branches, bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. All kinds of birds will nest in it. They will find

shelter in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the countryside will know that I am YHWH who stunt tall trees and make low trees grow. I dry up the green tree and I make the dry tree flourish. I, YHWH have spoken, and I will do it.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

And so we are always full of confidence, even though we realize that to live in the body means to be absent from Jesus Christ. We walk by faith, not by sight. We are full of confidence, I repeat, and would actually prefer to be absent from the body and make our home with

Christ. Whether we are living in the body or absent from it, we are intent on pleasing Christ. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and each of us will get what we deserve for the things we do while in the body, good or bad.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said further, “The reign of God is like this: a sower scatters seed on the ground, then goes to bed at night and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without the sower knowing how it happens. The soil produces a crop by itself — first the blade, then the ear, and finally the ripe wheat in the ear. When the crop is ready, the sower wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for harvest.”

Jesus went on to say, “What comparison will we use for the reign of God? What image

will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed that people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth’s seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade.”

Using many parables like these, Jesus spoke the message to them, as much as they could understand. Everything was spoken in parables, but Jesus explained everything to the disciples later when they were alone.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Job.

Then YHWH answered Job from the heart of the storm:

And who held back the sea behind partitions
when it burst forth from my womb,
when I created clouds as the earth's raiment
and thick darkness as its swaddling clothes —
when I drew limits around the waters
and locked the partitions in place
and said, "This far and no more;
this is where your mighty waves stay."?

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The love of Christ overwhelms us whenever we reflect on this: that if one person has died for all, then all have died. The reason Christ died for all was so that the living should live no longer for themselves but for Christ, who died and was raised to life for them.

And so from now on, we do not look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 4:35-41

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to the disciples, "Let us cross over to the other shore." Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus in the boat in which he was sitting. There were other boats with them.

Then a fierce gale arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat so much that it was almost swamped. But Jesus was in the stern through it all, sound asleep on a cushion. They

woke him and said, "Teacher, does it not matter to you that we are going to drown?"

Jesus awoke, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be calm!" And the wind dropped and everything was perfectly calm. Jesus then said to the disciples, "Why were you so frightened? Have you no faith?"

But they became filled with fear and said to one another, "Who is this, whom even the wind and sea obey?"

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

For YHWH is not the author of death,
and does not delight desolation;
YHWH created all things to be alive.
All things of the world are made to be wholesome,
and there is no poison in them.
The netherworld has no power over the earth,
for justice lasts forever.
For YHWH created us to be imperishable,
and modeled us on the divine nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death to the world,
as those who call themselves partners of the devil
soon find out.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as you are rich in every respect, in faith and discourse, in knowledge, in total concern and in the love we inspired in you, you may also abound in this work of grace.

You are well acquainted with the favor shown by our Savior Jesus Christ, who, though rich, became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich by Christ's poverty.

This does not mean that by giving relief to others, you ought to make things difficult for yourselves! It is just a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need; and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance, as scripture says: "The one who gathered much had no excess, and the one who gathered little did not go short."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 5:21-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

When Jesus had crossed again to the other shore in the boat, a large crowd gathered, and he stayed by the lakeside.

Then one of the synagogue officials — Jairus by name — came up and, seeing Jesus, fell down and pleaded earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is desperately sick. Come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.” Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed, pressing from all sides.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years; after long and painful treatment from various doctors, she had spent all she had without getting better — in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. “If I can touch even his hem,” she had told herself, “I will be well again.” Immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Immediately aware that healing power had gone out from him, Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

The disciples said, “You see how the crowd is pressing you and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus continued to look around to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew

what had happened to her, and she fell at Jesus’ feet and told him the whole truth.

“My daughter,” Jesus said, “your faith has saved you; go in peace, and be free of your affliction.”

While Jesus was still speaking, some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why put the Teacher to any further trouble?”

But Jesus overheard the remark and said to the official: “Do not be afraid. Just believe.” Jesus allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and James’ brother John.

They came to the official’s house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. Jesus went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.” At this they began to ridicule him, and he told everyone to leave.

Jesus took the child’s mother and father and his own companions and entered the room where the child lay. Taking her hand, he said to her, “*Talitha, koum!*” which means, “Little girl, get up!” Immediately the girl, who was twelve years old, got up and began to walk about.

At this they were overcome with astonishment. Jesus gave the family strict orders not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give the little girl something to eat.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The Voice said, “Mere Mortal, stand up, and I will speak with you!” As it spoke, the spirit entered me and raised me onto my feet, and I heard these words:

“Mere Mortal, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has revolted against me; they and their ancestors

have been rebelling against me to this very day. The people to whom I send you are defiant and stubborn. You are to say to them, ‘Thus says YHWH!’ And whether they listen or not — for they are a rebellious house — they will know that a prophet has come among them.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh — a messenger of Satan to beat me — to keep me from exalting myself! Three times I begged God that it might leave me. And God said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. So I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:1-6

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus came into his hometown, followed by the disciples.

When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and the many listeners were astonished and said, “Where did he learn all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted, and these miracles that are performed by his hands? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joseph and Judah and Simon? Are his sisters not here with us?” They

found these things to be stumbling blocks. Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town and among their own relatives and in their own households.” And he could work no miracles there, apart from laying his hands upon a few sick people and healing them; their lack of faith astounded him. He made the rounds of the neighboring villages instead, and spent the time teaching.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Amaziah told Amos, “Go away seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there. Do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel. This is a royal sanctuary, the National temple.”

Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet. Nor am I the disciple of a prophet. I was a shepherd, and gathered figs for food. But YHWH took me from herding the flock, and said to me, ‘Go prophesy to my people Israel.’”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Praised be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children — such was God’s pleasure and will — that everyone might praise the glory of God’s grace which was freely bestowed on us in God’s beloved, Jesus Christ.

It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God’s favor given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, to be carried out

in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things — in heaven and on the earth — together in Christ.

In Christ Jesus we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God — and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel — we were predestined to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God’s own — to the praise of God’s glory.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:7-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals, but he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.”

And Jesus said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave

town. Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them.”

And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. They cast out many demons, and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep in my pasture!” declares YHWH. “Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who are tending my people: You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds, declares YHWH. Then I

myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their own pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. I will also raise up shepherds who will look after them and pasture them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified nor will any be missing, declares YHWH.”

Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH,
when I will raise up for the house of David a righteous branch,
who will reign as a true ruler and act wisely,
and do what is just and right in the land.
In those days, Judah will be saved,
and Israel will dwell securely;
This is the Name on which they will call:
“YHWH, Our Justice.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of hostility that kept us apart. In his own flesh, Christ abolished the Law, with its commands and ordinances, in order to make the two into one new

person, thus establishing peace and reconciling us all to God in one body through the cross, which put to death the enmity between us. Christ came and “announced the Good News of peace to you who were far away, and to those who were near”; for through Christ, we all have access in one Spirit to our God.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:30-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The apostles came back to Jesus and reported all that they had done and taught. Jesus said to them, “Come away by yourselves to someplace more remote, and rest awhile.” For there were many people coming and going, and the apostles had not even had time to eat. So they went away in a boat to a deserted area.

The people saw them leaving and many recognized them, so they ran there together on foot from all the cities and got there ahead of the apostles. When Jesus went ashore, there was a large crowd waiting for him, and he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A reading from the second book of Kings.

A man came from Ba'al Shalishah, carrying twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe corn, along with some ears of new corn. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. "How can I serve it to one hundred people?" Gehazi asked.

But Elisha replied, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what YHWH said: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" Then the food was set before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I plead with you, then, in the name of our Redeemer, to lead a life worthy of your calling. Treat one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the peace that binds you

together. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called into one hope when you were called. There is one Savior, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is over all, who works through all and is within all.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 6:1-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Some time later, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee — that is, Lake Tiberius — and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by healing sick people. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with the disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowd approaching and said to Philip, “Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?” Jesus knew very well what he was going to do, but asked this to test Philip’s response.

Philip answered, “Not even with two hundred days’ wages could we buy loaves enough to give each of them a mouthful!”

One of the disciples, Simon Peter’s brother Andrew, said, “There’s a small boy here with five barley loaves and two dried fish. But what good is that for so many people?”

Jesus said to them, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand families sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting there; he did the same with the fish, giving out as much as they could eat.

When the people had eaten their fill, Jesus said to the disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing gets wasted.” So they picked them up and filled twelve baskets with scraps left over from the five barley loaves.

The people, seeing this sign that Jesus had performed, said, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Seeing that they were about to come and carry him off to crown him as ruler, Jesus escaped into the hills alone.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The community of the Israelites began to complain against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The people of Israel said to them, “If only we had died by YHWH’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat next to pots of meat and ate our bread until we were filled! But now you have brought the whole community out into this wilderness to die of hunger.”

Then YHWH said to Moses, “Look, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day’s portion every day, so that I can test them and see if they will follow my instructions. Say this to them: ‘In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have

your fill of bread. Then you will know that I, the Most High, am YHWH.’”

So it came about that in the evening, quail flew in and all around the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp; when the layer of dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were flakes of something: delicate, powdery, fine as frost.

When they saw this, the people of Israel said to each other, “What is that?” — not knowing what it was. But Moses told them, “This is the bread YHWH has given you to eat.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

So I declare and testify together with Jesus Christ that you must stop living the kind of life the world lives.

That is hardly the way you have learned from Christ, unless you failed to hear properly, when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old

way of life; you must put aside your old self, which is being corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution, so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God’s likeness, in the justice and holiness of the truth.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 6:24-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor the disciples were there, they got into the boats and crossed to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them:

“The truth of the matter is,
you are not looking for me because you have seen signs,
but because you have eaten your fill of the bread.
You should not be working for perishable food,
but for life-giving food that lasts for all eternity;
this the Chosen One can give you,
for the Chosen One bears the seal of Abba God.”

At this they said, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus replied,

“This is the work of God:
to believe in the one whom God has sent.”

So they asked Jesus, “What sign are you going to give to show us that we should believe in you? What will you do? Our ancestors had manna to eat in the desert; as Scripture says, ‘God gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus said to them,

“The truth of the matter is,
Moses has not given you bread from heaven;
yet my Abba gives you the true bread from heaven.
For the bread of God
is the One who comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.”

“Teacher,” they said, “give us this bread from now on.”

Jesus explained to them,

“I am the bread of life.
No one who comes to me will ever be hungry.
No one who believes in me will ever be thirsty.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, YHWH," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

Suddenly an angel of YHWH touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

He looked around, and there near his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals,

and a jar of water. He ate the cake and drank the water and then lay down again.

The angel of YHWH came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you!" So he got up, ate and drank some more. Strengthened by that food, he traveled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, all rage and anger, all harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and

mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ. Try to imitate God as beloved children. Walk in love as Christ loved us, and offered himself in sacrifice to God for us, a gift of pleasing fragrance.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 6:41-51

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

The Temple authorities started to grumble in protest because Jesus claimed, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They kept saying, “Is this not Jesus, begot of Mary and Joseph? Do we not know his mother and father? How can he claim to have come down from heaven?”

“Stop your grumbling,” Jesus told them.

“No one can come to me
unless drawn by Abba God, who sent me —
and those I will raise up on the last day.
It is written in the prophets:
‘They will all be taught by God.’
Everyone who has heard God’s word
and learned from it comes to me.
Not that anyone has seen Abba God —
only the one who is from God has seen Abba God.
The truth of the matter is,
those who believe have eternal life.
I am the bread of life.
Your ancestors ate manna in the desert,
but they died.
This is the bread that comes down from heaven,
and if you eat it you will never die.
I myself am the living bread
come down from heaven.
If any eat this bread,
they will live forever;
the bread I will give
for the life of the world
is my flesh.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

First Reading: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15, 16; 16:1-2

A reading from the first book of Chronicles.

Then David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring the Ark of YHWH up to the place he had prepared for it. David called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites, and the Levites carried the Ark of YHWH on their shoulders with poles, as Moses had ordered in accordance with YHWH's word.

David commanded the leaders of the Levites to appoint some from among them to

chant, to play on musical instruments — harps, lyres, and cymbals — and to make a loud sound of rejoicing.

They brought the Ark of YHWH in and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings to YHWH. When David had finished presenting the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of YHWH.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal body has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law — but thank God for giving us the victory through our Savior Jesus Christ!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 11:27-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!"

"Rather," Jesus replied, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

ASSUMPTION OF MARY / MASS DURING THE DAY

First Reading: Revelation 11:19 - 12:1-6, 10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, had this vision: God's sanctuary in heaven was opened, and within it the Ark of the Covenant could be seen. There were flashes of lightning, loud noises, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a violent hailstorm.

Then a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, with twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant and in labor, crying out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon, with seven heads and

ten horns, and each of the seven heads with a crown. Its tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them down to the earth.

The dragon stood before the woman about to deliver, to devour her child the moment she gave birth. The woman gave birth to a male child, a son, who is to rule the world with an iron rod. But the child was snatched straight up to God and God's throne. The woman fled into the desert, to a place prepared for her by God, where she will be kept safe for 1,260 days.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven shout:

“Now have come salvation and power,
and the kingdom of God,
and all authority for God's Anointed.
For the accuser of our sisters and brothers
who accused them before our God night and day,
has been brought down.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

But as it is, Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through one human being, in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one human being. Just as in the first human all die, so in Christ will all come to life again, but all of them in their proper order: Christ as

the first fruits, and then the faithful when Christ comes again. After that will come the end, when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Creator, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power.

Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under Christ's foot, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ASSUMPTION OF MARY / MASS DURING THE DAY — continued

ALLELUIA!

*Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Within a few days, Mary set out and hurried into the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what Our God said to her would be accomplished." Mary said,

"My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.
For you have looked with favor
upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward
all generations will call me blessed.
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.
Your mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear you.
You have shown strength with Your arm,
you have scattered the proud in their conceit,
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich empty away.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
mindful of your mercy —
the promise you made to our ancestors —
to Sarah and Abraham and to their descendants forever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Wisdom has built a house;
has set up seven pillars.
prepared food, decanted wine,
and set the table.
Wisdom has sent out the household staff to call
from a spot overlooking the city.
“Whoever wants enlightenment, step this way!”
inviting all who lack understanding.
“Come, eat my bread and drink the wine
that I have prepared for you.
Abandon your foolishness that you may live,
and walk the path of understanding.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Keep careful watch over your conduct. Do not act like fools, but like wise and thoughtful people. Make the most of your time, for these are evil days. Do not continue in ignorance, but try to discern the will of God. Avoid getting drunk on wine — that

is debauchery! Instead be filled with the Spirit, meditating on psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to God in your hearts. Always give thanks to Abba God for everything, in the name of Jesus our Messiah.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 6:48-58

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert,
but they died.

This is the bread that comes down from heaven,
and if you eat it you will never die.

I myself am the living bread
come down from Heaven.

If any eat this bread
they will live forever;
the bread I will give
for the life of the world is my flesh.

The Temple authorities then began to argue with one another. “How can he give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus replied,

“The truth of the matter is,
if you do not eat the flesh
and drink the blood of the Chosen One,
you will not have life in you.

Those who do eat my flesh and drink my blood
have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.

Everyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in them.

Just as the living Abba God sent me
and I have life because of Abba God,
so those who feed on me
will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from Heaven.
It is not the kind of bread your ancestors ate,
for they died;
whoever eats this kind of bread
will live forever.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-17, 18

A reading from the book of the prophet Joshua.

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and called a summit of the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel. Once they presented themselves before YHWH, Joshua said to the whole assembly, "If you do not want to worship YHWH, then make the decision today whom you will worship, even if it is the gods of your ancestors beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you live. As for me and my household, we will worship YHWH."

Then the people responded, "Far be it from us to abandon YHWH to worship other gods. It was YHWH our God who brought us and our ancestors up and out of the land of slavery. YHWH performed those great signs before our eyes. YHWH protected us on the entire journey and among all the peoples whose lands we passed through. YHWH drove out before us the Amorites and all the people dwelling in the land. We too will serve YHWH, who is God."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Defer to one another out of reverence to Christ. Those of you who are in committed relationships should yield to each other as if to Christ, because you are inseparable from each other, just as Christ is inseparable from the body — the church — as well as being its Savior. As the church yields to Christ, so you should yield to your partner in everything.

Love one another as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for it to make it holy, purifying it by washing it with the Gospel's message, so that Christ might have

a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without mark or blemish or anything of that sort. Love one another as you love your own bodies. Those who love their partners love themselves. No one ever hates one's own flesh; one nourishes it and takes care of it as Christ cares for the church — for we are members of Christ's body.

"This is why one person leaves home and clings to another, and the two become one flesh."

This is a great foreshadowing; I mean, it refers to Christ and the church.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 6:60-69

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Many of the disciples remarked, “We cannot put up with this kind of talk! How can anyone take it seriously?” Jesus was fully aware that the disciples were murmuring in protest at what he had said. “Is this a stumbling block for you?” he asked them.

What, then, if you were to see the Chosen One
ascend to where the Chosen One came from?
It is the spirit that gives life;
the flesh in itself is useless.
The words I have spoken to you
are spirit and life.
Yet among you there are some
who do not believe.

Jesus knew from the start, of course, the ones who would refuse to believe and the one who would betray him. He went on to say:

“This is why I have told you
that no one can come to me
unless it is granted by Abba God.”

From this time on, many of the disciples broke away and would not remain in the company of Jesus. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Are you going to leave me, too?”

Simon Peter answered, “Rabbi, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses told the people, “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land that YHWH, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of YHWH, your God, you must not add to nor subtract from that which I am giving you. Observe them carefully, and

demonstrate your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this is a wise and intelligent people.’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as YHWH is to us when we call? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole Law that I set before you today?”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of James.

Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Creator of the heavenly luminaries, who cannot change and is never in shadow. God willingly gave birth to us with a word spoken in truth, so that we may be, as it were, the first fruits of God’s creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you because it has power to save

you. But act on this word — because if all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of our Abba God, the Creator, is this: coming to the aid of widows and orphans when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by this world.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-16, 21-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Pharisees and some of the religious scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They had noticed that some of the disciples were eating with unclean hands — that is, without ritually washing them.

The Pharisees, and Jewish people in general, follow the tradition of their ancestors and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow.

Moreover, they never eat anything from the market without first sprinkling it. There are many other traditions that have been handed down to them, such as the washing of cups and pots and dishes.

So these Pharisees and religious scholars asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of our ancestors, but eat their food with unclean hands?”

Jesus answered, “How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he

wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless; the doctrines they teach are only human precepts.’

“You disregard God’s commandments and cling to human traditions.”

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand.

Nothing that enters us from the outside makes us impure; it is what comes out of us that makes us impure. If you have ears to hear, then listen.”

He went on, “For it is from within — from our hearts — that evil intentions emerge: promiscuity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, obscenity, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evils come from within and make us impure.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 35:3-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees.
Say to all those of faint heart:
“Take courage! Do not be afraid!
Look, YHWH is coming,
vindication is coming,
the recompense of God —
God is coming to save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
the ears of the deaf will be unsealed.
Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer
and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy.
Waters will break forth in the wilderness,
and there will be streams in the desert.
The scorched earth will become a lake,
the parched land, springs of water.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of James.

My sisters and brothers, your faith in our glorious Savior Jesus Christ must not allow favoritism. Suppose there should come into your assembly a person wearing gold rings and fine clothes and, at the same time, a poor person dressed in shabby clothes.

Suppose further you were to take notice of the well-dressed one and say, “Sit right here, in the seat of honor”; and say to the poor

one, “You can stand!” or “Sit over there by my footrest.” Have you not in such a case discriminated in your hearts? Have you not set yourselves up like judges who hand down corrupt decisions?

Listen, dear sisters and brothers: did God not choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom promised to those who love God?

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus left the region of Tyre and returned by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Ten Cities.

Some people brought an individual who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and begged Jesus to lay hands on that person. Jesus took the afflicted one aside, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the deaf ears and, spitting, touched the mute tongue with his saliva. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and, with a deep sigh, said, “*Ephphatha!*” —

that is, “Be opened!” At once the deaf ears were opened and the impediment cured; the one who had been healed began to speak plainly.

Then Jesus warned them not to tell anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. Their amazement went beyond all bounds: “He has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Exalted YHWH has given me
a skilled and well-trained tongue,
so that I can sustain the weary
with a timely word.
YHWH awakens me morning after morning —
wakens my ear, to listen like a student.
Exalted YHWH opened my ears
and I have obeyed,
I did not turn away.
I offered my back to those beating me,
offered my cheeks to those who would humiliate me.
I did not hide my face from insults
or spitting.
Because Exalted YHWH helps me,
insults cannot wound me,
for I have set my face like flint,
because I know I will not be put shame.
My vindicator is at my side.
Who would dare accuse me?
Let us confront each other!
Who are my adversaries?
Let them accuse me!
It is Exalted YHWH who helps me.
Who will judge me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a piece of clothing;
moths will devour them.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of James.

My sisters and brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save.

If any are in need of clothes and have no food to live on, and one of you says to them, “Goodbye and good luck. Stay warm and be well-fed,” without giving them the bare necessities of life, then what good is this? So

it is with faith. If good deeds do not go with it, faith is dead.

Some of you will say that you have faith, while I have deeds. Fine. I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds. Now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Then Jesus and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way Jesus asked the disciples this question: “Who do people say that I am?”

They replied, “Some, John the Baptizer; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets.”

“And you,” he went on to ask, “who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah!” But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests and

religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: “Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God’s!”

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The poor deluded people say to themselves,
“Let us set a trap for the just,
 who greatly annoy us by opposing what we do
and reproaching us for breaking the Law.
 They call us traitors to our heritage.
So let us test these spurious claims
 and see what happens to the just when they meet their end.
For if the just are YHWH’s children, YHWH will reach down
 to rescue them from the hands of their enemies.
Let us test them with insults and torture
 to see how long they will hold out
 and learn how long their patience will last.
Let us condemn them to die in shame:
 Why should they worry?
If what they say is true, they will be protected!”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: James 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of James.

Where there is jealousy and ambition, there is also disharmony and wickedness of every kind. The wisdom from above, however, has a purity as its essence. It works for peace; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good. Nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds that will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these conflicts and battles among you first start? Is it not that they come from

the desires that battle within you? You want something but do not get it, so you are prepared to kill to get it. You have ambitions that you cannot satisfy, so you fight to get your way by force.

The reason you do not have what you want is that you do not ask for it in prayer. And when you do ask and do not get it, it is because you have not prayed properly. You have prayed in order to indulge your own pleasures.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples left the district and began a journey through Galilee, but Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching the disciples along these lines: “The Promised One is going to be delivered into the hands of others and will be put to death, but three days later this One will rise again.” Though they failed to understand these words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned to Capernaum. Once they were inside the house, Jesus began to ask them, “What were you discussing on the way home?” At this they fell silent, for on

the way they had been arguing about who among them was the most important. So Jesus sat down and called the Twelve over and said, “If any of you wishes to be first, you must be the last one of all and be at the service of all.”

Then Jesus brought a little child into their midst and, putting his arm around the child, said to them, “Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me, but the One who sent me.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

YHWH came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the Spirit that was in Moses, YHWH bestowed it on the seventy elders whom Moses had gathered there; and as the Spirit came to rest on them, they were seized with prophesying and did not stop.

Now two others elders, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had stayed behind in the camp. They had been summoned to the

tent, but had not gone; yet the Spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. When a youth came running to tell Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, begot of Nun, who from youth had been Moses' aide, cried, "Moses, stop them!"

But Moses answered, "Are you jealous for my sake? If only all of YHWH's people were prophets! If only YHWH would bestow the Spirit on them all!"

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of James.

Now an answer for the rich. Weep and howl for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting; your clothes are eaten up by moths. Your gold and silver are corroding, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence: it will consume your flesh like fire. This is what you have stored up for yourselves to receive on the last days. Laborers mowed your fields, and you

cheated them! Listen to the wages that you kept back: they call out against you; realize that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of Our God Most High. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; you have been fattening yourselves for the day of slaughter. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to expel demons, and we tried to stop it since this person was not part of our group.”

Jesus said in reply, “Do not try to stop it. No one who performs a miracle using my name can speak ill of me soon thereafter! Anyone who is not against us is with us. The truth is, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not go without a reward.

“Rather than make one of these little ones stumble, it would be better to be thrown

into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It would be better to enter Life crippled than to have hands and go into Gehenna, where the fire never goes out. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter Life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It would be better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be drawn into Gehenna, where ‘the worm never dies and the fire never goes out.’”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

Reading 1: Genesis 2:18-25

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then YHWH said, “It is not good for the earth creature to be alone. I will make a fitting companion for it.”

So from the soil YHWH formed all the various wild beasts and all the birds of the air, and brought them to the earth creature to be named. Whatever the earth creature called each one, that became its name. The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals.

But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so YHWH made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, YHWH divided it in two, then closed up the flesh from its sides. YHWH

then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another. When the male realized what had happened, he exclaimed,

“This time, this is the one!

Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!

Now, she will be Woman, and I will be Man,

because we are of one flesh!”

This is why people leave their parents and become bonded one another, and the two become one flesh.

Now, the woman and the man were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

Reading 2: Hebrews 2:9-12

A reading from the book of Hebrews.

We do see Jesus, who was made “little less than the angels, crowned with glory and honor” by dying on the cross — so that, through the gracious will of God, Jesus might taste death for us all.

Indeed, it was fitting that, when bringing many to glory, God, for whom and through

whom all things exist, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. The one who makes holy and those who are made holy are all from the One God. And because of this, Jesus is not ashamed to call us sisters and brothers, as it is written:

“I will proclaim your Name
to my sisters and brothers,
I will sing your praise
in the midst of the assembly.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and, as a test, asked, “Is it permissible for husbands to divorce wives?”

In reply Jesus asked, “What command did Moses give?”

They answered, “Moses permitted a husband to write a decree of divorce and to put her away.”

But Jesus told them, “Moses wrote the commandment because of your hardness of heart. From the beginning of creation,

‘God made them male and female.

This is why one person leaves home and cleaves to another,

and the two become one flesh.’

They are no longer two, but one flesh. What God has united, therefore, let no one divide.”

Back in the house again, the disciples questioned Jesus once more about this. He told them, “If a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery against her; and if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing their children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples scolded them for this.

When Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. The truth is, whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God as a little child will not enter it.”

And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

So I prayed, and understanding was given to me;
I called for help and the spirit of Wisdom came to my aid.
I valued Wisdom above even my throne and scepter
and all my great wealth was nothing next to this.
I held no precious jewel as an equal,
because all the gold in the world
was just a handful of sand compared with Her,
and all the silver in the world
was worth no more than mud.
I loved Wisdom more than health and beauty;
I preferred Wisdom to the light of day,
whose countenance shone unceasingly.
Through Wisdom, I received all good things,
and I had wealth beyond counting.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

God's word is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It pierces so deeply that it divides even soul and spirit, bone and marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing is concealed from God; all lies bare and exposed to the eyes of the One to whom we have to render an account.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-25, 28-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?” Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honor your mother and your father.”

The other replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood.”

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, “There is one thing more that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me.”

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen, and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: “My children, how hard it is to enter the realm of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the Needle’s Eye gate than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!”

Peter was moved to say to Jesus, “We have left everything to follow you!”

Jesus answered, “The truth is, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields, for me and for the sake of the Gospel who will not receive a hundred times as much in this present age — as many homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children and property, though not without persecution — and, in the age to come, everlasting life.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

But YHWH chose to crush and afflict you;
if you make yourself a reparation offering
you will see your descendants,
you will prolong your days,
and the will of YHWH will prevail through you.
Through your suffering,
you will see contentment and light.
By your knowledge, my Righteous One, my Servant,
you will justify many by taking their guilt upon yourself.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens — Jesus, the Firstborn of YHWH — let us hold fast to our profession of faith. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize

with our weaknesses, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor, and find help in time of need.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:35-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Zebedee's children James and John approached Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to grant our request."

"What is it?" Jesus asked.

They replied, "See to it that we sit next to you, one at your right and one at your left, when you come into your glory."

Jesus told them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I will drink or be baptized in the same baptism as I?"

"We can," they replied. Jesus said in response, "From the cup I drink of, you will drink; the baptism I am immersed in, you will share. But as for sitting at my right or my

left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved."

The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John.

Jesus called them together and said: "You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those 'great ones' know how to make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served but to serve — to give one life in ransom for the many."

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

For thus says YHWH:
Sing aloud with joy for Jacob!
Hail the head of Nations!
 Make your praises heard, and say,
 “YHWH, save your people, Israel’s remnant!”
For I will bring them from the lands of the north
 and gather them from the ends of the earth —
 the blind and the lame,
 will be among them,
 along with expectant mothers and women in labor.
They will return in vast numbers.
They will return weeping and praying.
I guide them in my mercy.
I will lead them besides streams of water,
 along level ground where they will not stumble.
For I am forever a mother and father to Israel;
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Every high priest taken from among the faithful is appointed on their behalf to deal with the things of God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. The high priest is able to deal patiently with erring sinners, being likewise beset by weakness — and so must make personal sin offerings as well as those

for the people. One does not take on this honor by one’s own initiative, but only when called by God as Aaron was. Even Christ did not presume to take on the office of high priest. Christ was appointed high priest by the One who said, “You are my Own; today I have begotten you.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:46-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with the disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, begot of Timaeus, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, "Heir of David, Jesus, have pity on me."

Many people scolded him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Heir of David, have pity on me."

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here."

So they called the blind man. "Do not be afraid," they said. "Get up; Jesus is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus jumped up and went to Jesus.

Then Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Rabbuni," the blind man said, "I want to see."

Jesus replied, "Go, your faith has saved you." And immediately Bartimaeus received the gift of sight and began to follow Jesus along the road.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I, John, saw another angel rising from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. It called out in a powerful voice to the four angels who had been given the power to devastate the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea until we have put our God's seal on the foreheads of the faithful!"

Then I heard the number of those who were so marked with the seal: there were 144,000, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice, "Salvation is of our God, who sits on the throne, and of the Lamb!"

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshipped God with these words: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These people in white robes — who are they, and where do they come from?"

I answered, "You are the one who knows." Then the elder said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love Abba God has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized God. My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not

been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is. All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Blessed are those who are mourning:
they will be consoled.
Blessed are those who are gentle:
they will inherit the land.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:
they will have their fill.
Blessed are those who show mercy to others:
they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:
they will see God.
Blessed too are those who work for peace:
they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of their struggle for justice:
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

ALL SOULS' DAY

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The souls of the just are in the hand of YHWH,
and no torment will touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
their passing away was thought an affliction,
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
If they experienced punishment as we might see it,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they will be greatly blessed,
because YHWH tried them and found them to be worthy.
They were proved in the furnace by YHWH;
they were taken to YHWH as sacrificial offerings.
In the time of their visitation, they will shine;
they will dart about as sparks run through the stubble.
They will judge nations and rule over peoples,
and YHWH will be their ruler forever.
Those who trust in YHWH will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with YHWH in love;
for grace and mercy await YHWH's chosen ones.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I will share with you a mystery: we are not all going to die, but we will be changed. It will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye — when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we will be changed, too. For our present perishable nature must put on imperishability, and our mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal body has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true, “Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?” Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law — but thank God for giving us the victory through our Savior Jesus Christ!

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALL SOULS' DAY — continued

ALLELUIA!

*Come, you who have been blessed, says our Savior,
inherit the reign prepared for you
since the foundation of the world.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 17:24-26

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

“Abba, I ask that those you gave me
may be here with me,
so they can see this glory of mine
that is your gift to me,
because of the love you had for me
before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous One, the world has not known you,
but I have;
and these people know
that you sent me.

To them I have revealed your name,
and I will continue to reveal it
so that the love you have for me
may live in them,
just as I may live in them.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people: "If you, and your children, and their children revere YHWH, your God, all the days of your life, and if you keep the laws and commandments that I lay before you, you will have a long life. Listen then,

Israel, and observe carefully what will bring you prosperity and will increase your numbers greatly, as YHWH, the God of your ancestors has promised you, giving you a land that flows with milk and honey.

"Hear, O Israel: YHWH, our God, YHWH is One.

You are to love YHWH, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your strength.

Let these words that I command you today
be written in your heart."

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

There were so many priests in the old Covenant because death prevented them from continuing their work. But Christ lives on forever, and Christ's work as priest does not pass on to someone else. And so Christ is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Christ, because Christ lives forever to plead to God for them.

God ordained that we should have such a high priest — one who is holy, who has no

fault or sin, who has been set apart from sinners and raised above the heavens. Jesus is not like other high priests and does not need to offer sacrifices every day, first for personal sins and then for the sins of the people. Christ's self-sacrifice was offered once and for all. For the Law appoints as high priests people who are weak; but God's sworn promise, which came later than the Law, appoints the Only Begotten, who has been made perfect forever.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him: “Which is the foremost of all the commandments?”

Jesus replied, “This is the foremost: ‘Hear, O Israel, God, YHWH, is one. You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

The scholar said to Jesus, “Well spoken, Teacher! What you have said is true: the Most High is one and there is no other. To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself — this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.”

Jesus, seeing how wisely this scholar had spoken, said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to question Jesus any more.

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of Kings.

So Elijah went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink." As she was going to get the water, he called out, "And please bring me a piece of bread."

"As YHWH lives," she replied, "I do not have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a couple sticks to take home and make a meal for me and my child. We will eat it — and then we will die."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first

make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and your child. For this is what YHWH, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day YHWH makes it rain on the land.'"

The widow went away and did what Elijah had told her to do. And there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of YHWH spoken by Elijah.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

For Christ did not go into a holy place made by human hands, a copy of the real one. Christ went into heaven itself and now appears on our behalf in the presence of God. High priests of old went into the Most Holy Place every year with the blood of an animal. But Christ did not make a self-offering more than one time; otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer many times ever since the creation of the

world. But now that the Consummation is upon us, Christ has appeared once and for all, to remove sin through self-sacrifice. It is appointed that everyone must die once and then be judged by God. In the same way, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, and then will appear a second time — not to deal with sin, but to save those who are waiting for Christ's appearance.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:38-44

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

In his teaching, Jesus said, “Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely.”

Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting

money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny.

Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, “The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had — all she had to live on.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

At that time, Michael,
the great chieftain who stands guard over your people,
will stand up;
and there will follow a time of great suffering
the likes of which has never been known
from the founding of the nation until that moment.
When that time comes, your own people will be rescued,
every one whose name is written in the Scroll;
and those who lie sleeping in the dust will rise up,
some to life everlasting
and some to the reproach of eternal torment.
The wise will shine like the bright heavens,
and the leaders of justice like the stars forever more.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Every other priest performs services every day and offers the same sacrifices many times; but these sacrifices can never take away sins. Christ, however, offered one sacrifice for sins, an offering that is effective forever. Then Christ sat down at the right hand of God, and now waits there until God puts all enemies in their rightful place.

With one sacrifice, then, Jesus has made perfect forever those who are being sanctified.

So when sins and evil deeds have been forgiven, an offering to take away sins is no longer needed.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come

out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it — neither the angels of Heaven, nor the Only Begotten — no one but Abba God.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THANKSGIVING DAY

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses told the people, “For YHWH, your God, is bringing you into a good land — a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in valleys and in the hills, a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey, a land where bread will not be scarce and where you will lack for nothing, a land where rocks are iron and copper is dug out of hills. You will eat and have your fill, and you will praise YHWH, your God, for the good land given to you.

“Take care that you not forget YHWH by failing to observe the statutes, decrees and commands that are given you today. When you have had plenty to eat, and have built a fine house to live in, when your flocks and herds, your silver and gold, and all your

possessions increase, do not grow proud and forget YHWH, your God, who brought you out of Egypt, from the land of slavery. It was YHWH who led you through the vast and desolate wilderness, a thirsty and waterless land, filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions. YHWH made water spring forth for you out of solid rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had never known. YHWH humbled you to test you, and in the end, to make you prosperous. Do not say to yourself, ‘My own strength and the power of my hands brought this wealth to me.’ Remember YHWH, your God, who enabled you to produce this wealth, to confirm the covenant that YHWH swore to your ancestors, which is fulfilled today.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so

confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Savior Jesus Christ. God will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus, our Savior, is faithful.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!”

When Jesus saw them, he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As they were going, they were healed. One of them, realizing what had happened, came

back praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

Jesus replied, “Were all ten not made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?” Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel.

Daniel wrote of his dream:

I gazed into the visions of the night once again,
and I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven
one who looked human,
but somehow more than human.

This One came to the Ancient One
and was led into the divine Presence.

Thus was conferred sovereignty,
glory and dominion,
and all peoples, nations and languages
became this One's subjects.

This sovereignty is an eternal Sovereignty
that will never pass away,
nor will this dominion ever be destroyed.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8

A reading from the book of Revelation.

From John, to the seven churches of Asia:

Grace and peace to you, from the One who is, who was, and who is to come, from the seven spirits before the throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, sovereign of the rulers of the earth.

To Christ — who loves us, and has freed us from our sins by the shedding blood, and has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve Our God and Creator — to Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Look! Christ is coming on the clouds
for every eye to see,
even those who pierced Jesus
and all the peoples of the earth
will mourn over Christ.

So be it! Amen!

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says Our God, “who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*Blessed is the One who inherits the throne of David, our ancestor;
blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. “Are you the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?”

Pilate replied, “Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my

people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world.”

Pilate said, “So you are a King?”

Jesus replied, “You say that I am a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.”

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*



RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: CYCLE B

The inclusive language psalms are taken from: Leach, Maureen, O.S.F. and Schreck, Nancy, O.S.F., *Psalms Anew: A Non-sexist Edition* (Dubuque, IA: The Sisters of St. Francis, 1984). The texts are used with permission.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 80

Response: Restore us, O God, and we will be secure when You smile upon us.

Hear me, o Shepherd of Israel, / enthroned on the cherubs, shine out,
Rouse Your power, / and come to save us!

R: Restore us, O God, and we will be secure when You smile upon us.

Please, Adonai Sabaoth, relent! / Look down from heaven, look at this vine.
Visit it, / protect what Your own right hand has planted.

R: Restore us, O God, and we will be secure when You smile upon us.

Safeguard those You have chosen, / those You have made strong.
Never again will we turn away from You; / restore us, O God.

R: Restore us, O God, and we will be secure when You smile upon us.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 8) — 98

Response: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

Sing a new song to the Creator of Life /who has worked wonders.
Whose right hand and whose holy arm / have brought salvation.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

The Creator has made salvation known; / has shown justice to the nations,
And has remembered in truth and love / the house of Israel.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of Our God.
Shout to the Most High all the earth, / ring out your joy.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 85

Response: God, let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

I will hear what You, O God, have to say, / a voice that speaks of peace.

Your help is near for those who fear You / and Your glory will dwell in our land.

R: God, let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

Love and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness will spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven.

R: God, let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

Adonai, You will make us prosper / and our earth will yield its fruit.

Justice will march before You, / and peace will follow Your steps.

R: God, let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Luke 1

Response: I will greatly rejoice in You, O God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of You, O God, / and my spirit exults in You, my Savior. For

You have looked with favor upon Your lowly handmaid,

And from this day forward all generations to come will call me blessed.

R: I will greatly rejoice in You, O God.

For You, the Almighty, have done great things for me, / and holy is Your name. Your mercy reaches from age to age / for those who fear You.

R: I will greatly rejoice in You, O God.

The hungry You have filled with good things,

While the rich You have sent empty away.

You have come to the aid of Israel Your servant, / mindful of Your mercy.

R: I will greatly rejoice in You, O God.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -- Psalm 89

Response: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

I will sing the wonders of Your love, Adonai, forever;

I will proclaim Your faithfulness / to all generations.

Your true love is firm as the ancient earth / Your faithfulness fixed as the heavens.

R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

I have made a covenant with the one I have chosen;

I have sworn to My servant David, I will establish your posterity forever,

I will make your throne firm for all generations.

R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

You will say to me, "You are my God, / my rock and my safe refuge."

I will maintain my love for You forever / and be faithful in my covenant with You.

R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

CHRISTMAS / MIDNIGHT MASS (December 25) -- Psalm 96

Response: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Sing to Our God a new song! / Sing to Our God, all the earth!

Sing to Our God, / bless God's name.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Proclaim God's salvation day after day,

Tell of God's glory among the nations, / tell God's marvels to every people.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, Let the sea thunder and all that it holds,

Let the fields exult and all that is in them, Let all the woodland trees cry out for joy.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

They will exult at the presence of Our God, / for God comes to judge the earth.

To judge the world with justice / and the nations with truth.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

CHRISTMAS: MASS AT DAWN — Psalm 97

Response: A light will shine on us this day: a Savior is born for us.

Adonai, You reign; let the earth rejoice; / Let the many coastlands be glad!
The heavens proclaim Your righteousness; / And all the people behold Your glory.

R: A light will shine on us this day: a Savior is born for us.

Light dawns for the righteous, / and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in Our God, O you righteous, / and give thanks to God's holy Name!
R: A light will shine on us this day: a Savior is born for us.

CHRISTMAS: MASS DURING THE DAY — Psalm 98

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of Our God.

Sing a new song to the Creator of Life / who has worked wonders,
Whose right hand and whose holy arm / have brought salvation.

R: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of Our God.

The Creator has made salvation known; / has shown justice to the nations,
And has remembered in truth and love / the house of Israel.

R: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of Our God.

All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of Our God.
Shout to the Most High all the earth, / ring out your joy.

R: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of Our God.

Sing psalms to the Author of Life with the harp, / with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the Magnificent One.

R: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of Our God.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY — Psalm 128

Response: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

Happy are those who fear Our God / and walk in God's ways!

You will eat what your hands have worked for. / Happy will you be and favored.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

You will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house;

Your children like shoots of the olive / around your table.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

Indeed thus will be blessed / the one who fears Our God.

May the Most High bless you from Zion / all the days of your life.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD — Psalm 67

Response: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

God, show us kindness and bless us, / and make Your face smile on us!

For then the earth will acknowledge Your ways

And all the nations will know of Your power to save.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

Let the nations shout and sing for joy,

Since You dispense true justice to the world; On earth You rule the nations.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

Let the nations praise You, O God,

Let all the peoples praise You!

May God bless us,

And let God be feared to the very ends of the earth.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — Psalm 147

Response: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us.

Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem; / praise Your God, O Zion.

For God has strengthened the bars of your gates;

And has blessed your children within you.

R: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us.

God has granted peace in your borders, / and with the best of wheat fills you.

God sends forth a command to the earth; / swiftly runs the word!

R. The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us.

God has proclaimed a word to Jacob, / statutes and ordinances to Israel.

God has not done thus for any other nation;

Ordinances God has not made known to them. Alleluia.

R: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us.

EPIPHANY (January 6) -- Psalm 72

Response; O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

O God, with Your judgment and with Your justice, / endow Your leaders.

They will govern Your people with justice / and Your afflicted ones with judgment.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

Justice will flower in their days, / and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

May they rule from sea to sea, /and from the river to the ends of the earth.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts; / Arabia and Sheba will bring tribute.

All other rulers will pay homage to them, / all the nations will serve them.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

For they will rescue the poor when they cry out,

And the afflicted when they have no one to help them.

They will have pity on the lowly and the poor; / the lives of the poor they will save.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

PRESENTATION OF JESUS (February 2) -- Psalm 24

Response: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Fling wide the gates, / open the ancient doors,
And the Holy One will come in!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty,
The Most High, / victorious in battle!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Fling wide the gates, / open the ancient doors,
And the Holy One will come in!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Who is this Holy One? / The Most High, the glorious.

R. Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

BAPTISM OF JESUS: SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY — Psalm 29

Response: Our God will bless the people with peace.

Ascribe to Our God, O heavenly beings, / ascribe to the Most High glory and strength.
Ascribe to Our God the glory due God's Name; / worship the Most High in holy array.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

The voice of Our God is upon the waters; / the God of glory thunders upon the waters. The voice
of God is powerful, / the voice of the Most High is full of majesty.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

The voice of God is powerful, / and in God's Temple all cry "Glory!"
The Most High sits in judgment over the flood; / God sits in judgment forever.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

ASH WEDNESDAY — Psalm 51

Response: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your goodness,
In Your great tenderness wipe away my faults;
Wash me clean of my guilt, / purify me from my sin.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

For I am well aware of my faults, / I have my sin constantly in mind,
Having sinned against none other than You,
Having done what You regard as wrong.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

God, create a clean heart in me, / put into me a new and constant spirit.
Do not banish me from Your presence, / do not deprive me of Your Holy Spirit.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

Be my savior again, renew my joy, / keep my spirit steady and willing;
Open my lips, / and my mouth will speak out Your praise.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Response: All the paths of Our God are steadfast love
and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

Make me know Your ways, O God; / teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth
And teach me, / for You are the God of my Salvation. / For You I wait all the day long.

**R: All the paths of Our God are steadfast love
and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

Be mindful of Your mercy, O God, / and of Your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old. According to Your steadfast love remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, Adonai!

**R: All the paths of Our God are steadfast love
and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

Good and upright is Our God, / instructing sinners in the way,
Leading the humble in what is right, / and teaching the humble the way.

**R: All the paths of Our God are steadfast love
and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Response: I walk before You, O God, in the land of the living.

I have faith even when I say, / "I am completely crushed."
Precious in Your eyes / is the death of Your faithful.

R: I walk before You, O God, in the land of the living.

O God, I am Your servant, / Your servant, born of a pious family,
You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer You the thanksgiving sacrifice, / invoking Your name, O God.

R: I walk before You, O God, in the land of the living.

I will fulfill what I vowed to You / in the presence of all the people, In the courts of the house of
Our God, / in your midst, Jerusalem.

R: I walk before You, O God, in the land of the living.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Response: O God, You have the words of everlasting life.

Your law, O God, is perfect/ it refreshes the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted; / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: O God, You have the words of everlasting life.

Your precepts, O God, are right / they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear It gives light to the eyes.

R: O God, You have the words of everlasting life.

Fear of You, O God, is holy, / abiding forever.
Your decrees are faithful, / and all of them just.

R: O God, You have the words of everlasting life.

They are more desirable than gold, / than the purest of gold,
And sweeter than honey are they, / than honey oozing from the comb.

R: O God, You have the words of everlasting life.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT -- Psalm 137

Response: May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget You.

By the rivers of Babylon / we sat and wept, remembering Zion.
On the poplars of that land / we hung up our harps.

R: May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget You.

Then our captors asked of us / the lyrics of our songs
And urged us to be joyous, / "Sing for us one of the songs of Zion!"

R: May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget You.

How could we sing a song of Our God / while in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, / may my right hand forget its skill!

R: May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget You.

May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth / if I forget You,
If I do not consider Jerusalem / my greatest joy.

R: May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget You.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT -- Psalm 51

Response: Create a pure heart in me, O my God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your goodness,
In Your great tenderness wipe away my faults.
Wash me clean of my guilt, / purify me from my sin.

R: Create a pure heart in me, O my God.

God, create a clean heart in me, / put into me a new and constant spirit,
Do not banish me from Your presence/ do not deprive me of Your Holy Spirit.

R: Create a pure heart in me, O my God.

Be my savior again, renew my joy, / keep my spirit steady and willing;
And I will teach transgressors Your ways, / then sinners will return to You, too.

R: Create a pure heart in me, O my God.

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY -- Psalm 137

Response: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

All who see me jeer at me, /they toss their heads and sneer,

"You relied on your God, let your God save you!

If your God is your friend, let your God rescue you!"

R: My God my God, why have You deserted me?

A pack of dogs surrounds me, / a gang of villains closes me in.

They tie me, hand and foot / and leave me lying in the dust of death.

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

They divide my garments among them / and cast lots for my clothes.

Do not stand aside, Adonai. / O my strength, come quickly to my help.

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

Then I will proclaim Your Name, / praise You in full assembly:

You who fear the Most High, praise God! / Entire race of Israel, revere God!

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER — Psalm 116

Response: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

What return can I make to Our God / for all this goodness to me?

I will offer libations to my savior, / invoking the Name of the Most High.

R: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

The death of the devout / is precious in Your eyes.

Adonai, I am your faithful one, / your faithful one, born of a pious mother: You undo my fetters.

R: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

I will offer You the thanksgiving sacrifice, / invoking Your Name, Adonai.

I will pay what I vowed to You; / may the whole nation be present.

R: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY — Psalm 31

Response: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

In You, Adonai, I take shelter; / never let me be disgraced.
In Your righteousness deliver me,
Into Your hands I commit my spirit, / You have redeemed me, Adonai.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

To every one of my oppressors I am contemptible, / loathsome to my neighbors,
To my friends a thing of fear. / Those who see me in the street hurry past me;
I am forgotten, / as good as dead in their hearts, something discarded.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

But I put my trust in You, Adonai, / I say, "You are my God." My days are in Your hands,
Rescue me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

Let Your face smile on your faithful one, / save me in Your love.
Be strong, let your heart be bold, / all you who hope in Our God!

R: Abba-God! I place my life in your hands.

EASTER VIGIL

Reading 1 — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!

Clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in a robe of light.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You fixed the earth on its foundations, / unshakable forever and ever;
You wrapped it in the deep as with a robe, / the waters overtopping the mountains.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You set springs gushing in ravines, / running down between the mountains,
Near there the birds of the air make their nests / and sing among the branches.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

From Your palace You water the uplands
Until the ground has had all that Your heavens have to offer.
You make fresh grass grow for cattle / and those plants made use of by Your people.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Adonai, what variety You have created, / arranging everything so wisely!
Earth is completely full of things You have made: / Bless Our God, my soul.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Reading 2 — Psalm 16

Response: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

You, Adonai, are all I have, /and You give me all I need, my life is in Your hands.
I am always aware of Your presence; / You are near, and nothing can shake me.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

And so I am full of happiness and joy, / and I always feel secure; Because You will not allow me
to go to the world of the dead, You will not abandon / to the depths below the one You love.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

You will show me the path that leads to life; / Your presence fills me with joy,
And Your help brings pleasure forever.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 3 — Exodus 15

Response: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

I will sing to Our God, who has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider God has cast into the sea.
My strength and courage is the Most High, /who has been my savior.

It is Our God that I praise; / the God of my ancestors that I extol.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

Our God is a warrior; / who is called the Most High! Pharaoh's chariots and army / have been
hurled into the sea; Pharaoh's elite guard / was submerged into the Sea of Reeds.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

The waters of the flood covered them; / they sank to the depths like a stone.

Your right hand is magnificent in power. Your right hand, O Adonai, has shattered the enemy.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

You brought in the people You redeemed

And planted them on the mountain of Your inheritance.

The place where You made Your seat, the sanctuary which Your hands established.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

Reading 4 — Psalm 30

Response: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

I praise You, Adonai, because You have saved me and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

You brought me back / from the world of the dead,

I was with those who go down to the depths below, / but You restored my life.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

Sing praise to Our God, / you faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done / and give thanks!

Our God's anger lasts only a moment, / God's goodness for a lifetime.

There may be tears during the night, / but joy comes in the morning.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

Hear me, Adonai, and be merciful! / Help me, O God!

You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance; / I will give thanks to You forever.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 5 — Isaiah 12

Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior, / I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and courage is Our God, / who has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water / from the springs of salvation.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to Our God, / acclaim God's Name.
Make Our God's deeds known among the nations,
Proclaim how exalted is God's name.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to Our God for the glorious achievement,
Let this be known throughout the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Reading 6 — Psalm 19

Response: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your Law, Adonai, is perfect, / it revives the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your precepts, Adonai, are right, / they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear, / it gives light to the eyes.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Fear of You, Adonai, is holy, / abiding forever.
Your decrees are truth /and all of them just.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

They are more desirable than gold, / than the purest of gold.
And sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 7 — Psalm 42 - 43

Response: Like a deer that longs for running streams My soul longs for You, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, / the God of my life;

When can I enter and see /the face of God?

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

How would I lead the rejoicing crowd / into the house of God?

Amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, / the throng wild with joy.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Send forth Your light and Your fidelity; / they will lead me;

And bring me to Your holy mountain, / to Your dwelling place.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Then I will go in to the altar of God, / the God of my gladness and joy;

Then I will give You thanks upon the harp, / O God, my God!

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

EASTER SUNDAY — Psalm 118

Response: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

I give thanks to You, Adonai, for You are good, / Your love is everlasting!

Let the house of Israel say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Our God's right hand is winning, / Our God's right hand is wreaking havoc!

No, I will not die, I will live / to recite the deeds of the Most High.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

It was the stone rejected by the builders / that proved to be the keystone.

This is Our God's doing / and it is wonderful to see.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER -- Psalm 118

Response: Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

Let the house of Aaron say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

Let those who fear our God say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

R: Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love is everlasting.

I was pressed, pressed, about to fall, / but our God came to my help.

Our God is my strength and my song. / Adonai, You are my savior.

Shouts of joy and safety ring in the tents of the righteous.

R: Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love is everlasting.

It was the stone rejected by the builders / that proved to be the keystone;

This is our God's doing / and it is wonderful to see.

R: Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love is everlasting.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER -- Psalm 4

Response: Look on us with kindness, O God.

Answer me when I call, / O God, my defender!

When I was in trouble, /

You came to my help. Be kind to me now, / hear my prayer!

R: Look on us with kindness, O God.

Remember that Our God / has chosen me And hears me / when I call.

R: Look on us with kindness, O God.

Look on us with kindness, O God! / The joy that You give me is much greater

Than the joy of those who have an abundance of grain and wine.

R: Look on us with kindness, O God.

As soon as I lie down, / I peacefully go to sleep.

You alone, my Strength, / keep me perfectly safe.

R: Look on us with kindness, O God.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 118

Response: It was the stone rejected by the builders That has proved to be the keystone.

Alleluia! I give thanks to You, O God, for You are good, Your love is everlasting!

I would rather take refuge in You, O God, than rely on people.

I would rather take refuge in You, O God, than rely on rulers.

R: It was the stone rejected by the builders that has proved to be the keystone.

I thank You for having heard me, / You have been my savior.

It was the stone rejected by the builders / that has proved to be the keystone.

This is Our God's doing, / and it is marvelous to see.

R: It was the stone rejected by the builders that has proved to be the keystone.

Blessings on the one who comes in the Name of Our God!

We bless You from the house of Our God.

I thank You for having heard me, / You have been my savior.

I give You thanks, O God, for You are good. / Your love is everlasting!

R: It was the stone rejected by the builders that has proved to be the keystone.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 22

Response: You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly.

I perform my vows in the presence of those who fear You.

Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied.

Those who seek You will give praise. / Long life to their hearts!

R: You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly.

The whole earth, from end to end, / will remember and come back to You;

All the families of the nations will bow down.

Before You all the prosperous of the earth will bow down,

Before You will bow all who go down to the dust.

R: You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly.

And my soul will live for You, / my children will serve You.

We will proclaim You to generations still to come,

Your righteousness to a people yet unborn. / All this Our God has done.

R: You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER -- Psalm 98

Response: Our God has made salvation known, Has shown justice to the nations.

Sing a new song to Our God, / who has done wonderful deeds,
Whose right hand and whose holy arm / have brought salvation.

R: Our God has made salvation known, / has shown justice to the nations.

Our God has made salvation known, / has shown justice to the nations,
And has remembered the house of Israel / in faithfulness and love.

R: Our God has made salvation known, / has shown justice to the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen / the saving power of Our God.
Sing praise to Our God all the earth, / ring out your joy.

R: Our God has made salvation known, / has shown justice to the nations.

ASCENSION THURSDAY -- Psalm 47

**Response: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.**

All you people, clap your hands; / raise a shout to God with a triumphant note.
For the Most High is awe-inspiring, / glorious over the whole earth.

**R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.**

God has ascended with a shout, / with trumpet peals.
Sing praise to God, sing praise, / sing praise to God, sing praise.

**R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.**

For God is Most High over all the earth, / sing praise to God, sing praise.
God rules over all the nations; / God sits upon the holy judgment seat.

**R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 103

Response: Our God has established a judgment seat in the heavens.

Bless Our God, my soul, / Bless God's holy Name, all that is in me!

Bless Our God, my soul, / and remember all God's kindnesses.

R: Our God has established a judgment seat in the heavens.

No less than the height of heaven over earth /

Is the greatness of Our God's love for those who fear God.

The Most High takes our sins farther away / than the east is from the west.

R: Our God has established a judgment seat in the heavens.

Our God has established a judgment seat in the heavens / and governs all.

Bless Our God, all angels, / mighty in strength to enforce God's word,

Attentive to every command.

R: Our God has established a judgment seat in the heavens.

PENTECOST VIGIL — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!

Clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in a robe of light.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Adonai, what variety You have created, / arranging everything so wisely!

Earth is completely full of things You have made: / Bless Our God, my soul!

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

All creatures depend on You / to feed them throughout the year;

You provide the food they eat, / with generous hand You satisfy their hunger.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You turn Your face away, they suffer,

You stop their breath, they die and return to dust.

You give breath, fresh life begins. / You keep renewing the world.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

PENTECOST — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!

Adonai, what variety You have created,

Earth is completely full of the things You have made.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You turn Your face away, they suffer,

You stop their breath, they die and return to dust.

You give breath, fresh life begins, / You keep renewing the world.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Glory forever to the Most High! / May Our God find joy in all creation.

May these reflections of mine give God pleasure / as much as the Most High gives me.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

TRINITY SUNDAY — Psalm 33

Response: They are happy whose God is the Creator, The people God has chosen.

For the word of the Creator is faithful, / and all God's works are to be trusted.

The Creator loves justice and right / and fills the earth with love.

R: They are happy whose God is the Creator, the people God has chosen.

By the Creator's word the heavens were made,

By the breath of God's mouth all the stars.

The Creator spoke and it came to be; / commanded, it sprang into existence.

R: They are happy whose God is the Creator, the people God has chosen.

The Creator looks on those who stand in reverence, / on those who hope in God's love,

To rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine.

R: They are happy whose God is the Creator, the people God has chosen.

Our soul is waiting for God, / our help and our shield.

May Your faithful love be upon us, O God, / as we place our hope in You.

R: They are happy whose God is the Creator, the people God has chosen.

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Psalm 116

Response: I will take the cup of salvation, invoking the name of Our God.

What return can I make to the Most High / for all Your goodness to me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, / invoking the name of Our God.

R: I will take up the cup of salvation, invoking the name of Our God.

Precious in Your eyes / is the death of Your faithful.

O God, I am Your servant, / Your servant, born of a pious family,

You have freed me from my bonds.

R: I will take up the cup of salvation, invoking the name of Our God.

I will offer You the thanksgiving sacrifice, / invoking Your name,

O God. I will fulfill what I vowed to You / in the presence of all the people.

R: I will take up the cup of salvation, invoking the name of Our God.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 40

Response: Here am I, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

I waited and waited for You, Adonai!

Now at last You have stooped to me / and heard my cry for help. Adonai,

You have put a new song in my mouth, / a song of praise.

R: Here am I, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, / opened my ear;

You asked no burnt offering or sacrifice for sin.

Then I said, "Here I am! I have come!"

R: Here am I, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

In the scroll of the book it is prescribed for me / to obey Your will.

My God, I have always loved Your Law / from the depths of my being.

R: Here am I, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

I have always proclaimed the justice of Our God / in the Great Assembly,

Nor do I mean to stop proclaiming, / as You know well.

R: Here am I, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 25

Response: Make me know Your ways, O God.

Make me know Your ways, Adonai, / teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, / for You are the God of my salvation.

R: Make me know Your ways, O God.

Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai, / and of Your steadfast love,

For they have been from of old. According to Your steadfast love remember me,

For Your goodness' sake, Adonai!

R: Make me know Your ways, O God.

Good and upright is Adonai, / instructing sinners in the way,

Leading the humble in what is right, / and teaching the humble the way.

R: Make me know Your ways, O God.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 40 95

Response: If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to God; / let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us greet God with thanksgiving; / let us joyfully sing psalms.

R: If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; / let us kneel before the God who made us.

For the Most High is Our God

And we are the people God shepherds, the flock God guides.

R: If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

O, that today you would hear God's voice: / harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

As in the days of Massah in the desert, / where your ancestors tempted me;

They tested me though they had seen my works.

R: If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 147

Response: God heals the brokenhearted.

Praise God, who is good, / sing praise to Our God, who is gracious.

It is fitting to praise God.

God rebuilds Jerusalem, / gathers the exiles of Israel.

R: God heals the brokenhearted.

God heals the brokenhearted / and binds up all their wounds.

God knows the number of the stars / and calls them each by name.

R: God heals the brokenhearted.

Great is Our God and mighty in power, / there is no limit to God's wisdom. Our God sustains the lowly / and casts the wicked to the ground.

R: God heals the broken-hearted.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 32

Response: You are my shelter; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Happy are those whose fault is taken away, / whose sin is covered.

Happy those whose sin Our God does not count, / in whose spirit there is no guile.

R: You are my shelter; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Then I acknowledged my sin to You, / and did not cover my guilt.

I said, "I confess my faults to You," / and You took away the guilt of my sin.

R: You are my shelter; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Rejoice and be glad in Our God, you just / exult, all you upright of heart.

R: You are my shelter; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 41

Response: I said, "I have sinned against You, O God; Be merciful to me and cure me!"

Happy are those who aid the poor and the lowly.

Our God will help them when they are in trouble.

Our God will protect and preserve them, / will make them happy in the land,

And will not abandon them to the power of their enemies.

R: I said, "I have sinned against You, O God; be merciful to me and cure me!"

Our God will help them when they are sick / and restore them to health.

I said, "I have sinned against You, God; / be merciful to me and cure me!"

R: I said, "I have sinned against You, O God; be merciful to me and cure me!"

You will help me because I do what is right;

You will keep me in Your presence forever.

Let us praise Our God, praise the God of Israel now and forever! / Amen! Amen!

R: I said, "I have sinned against You, O God; be merciful to me and cure me!"

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 41

Response: Our God is merciful and forgiving.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Bless God's holy Name, all that is in me!

Bless Our God, my soul, / and remember all God's kindnesses.

R: Our God is merciful and forgiving.

In forgiving all your offenses, / in healing all your diseases,

In redeeming your life from the pit, / in crowning you with love and tenderness.

R: Our God is merciful and forgiving.

Our God is tender and compassionate, / slow to anger, most loving;

Our God never threatens us, never punishes us / as our guilt and our sins deserve.

R: Our God is merciful and forgiving.

Our God takes our sins farther away / than the east is from the west.

As tenderly as parents treat their children,

So Our God has compassion on those who fear God.

R: Our God is merciful and forgiving.

NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 81

Response: Sing out in praise of God, our strength.

Take pipe and timbrel, / take tuneful harp and lyre.
Blow the trumpet for the new month,
For the full moon on the day of our pilgrim feast.

R: Sing out in praise of God, our strength.

For this is a law for Israel, / a decree of the God of Sarah and Abraham.
Laid as a solemn charge on Joseph / when he came out of Egypt.

R: Sing out in praise of God, our strength.

When I lifted the burden from your shoulders, / your hands were freed from the builder's basket.
When you cried to me in distress, I rescued you;
Unseen, I answered you in thunder.

R: Sing out in praise of God, our strength.

You will have no strange god among you / nor bow down to any foreign god. I am the Most
High, Your God, / who brought you up from Egypt.

R: Sing out in praise of God, our strength.

TENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 130

Response: For with You is kindness and plenteous redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to You, O God; / God, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive / to my voice in supplication

R: For with You is kindness and plenteous redemption.

If You, O God, mark iniquities, / who can stand?
But with You is forgiveness / that You may be revered.

R: For with You is kindness and plenteous redemption.

I trust in You, O God, / my soul waits for You, O God,
More than sentinels wait for the dawn. / let Israel wait for You.

R: For with You is kindness and plenteous redemption.

For with You is kindness / and plenteous redemption;
God will redeem Israel / from all their iniquities.

R: For with You is kindness and plenteous redemption.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 92

Response: O God, it is good to give You thanks.

O God, it is good to give You thanks, / to sing psalms to Your Name, O Most High.

To declare Your love in the morning / and Your faithfulness every night

R: O God, it is good to give You thanks.

The just flourish like a palm tree, / they grow tall as a cedar of Lebanon.

Planted as they are in the house of the Creator,

They flourish in the courts of Our God.

R: O God, it is good to give You thanks.

Bearing fruit in old age like trees full of sap, / vigorous, wide-spreading.

Eager to declare that Our God is just, / my Rock, in whom there is no wrong.

R: O God, it is good to give You thanks.

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 107

Response: Alleluia! Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love endures forever.

Those taking ship and going to sea, / were merchants on the waters.

These, too, saw what Our God could do, / what wonders in the deep!

R: Alleluia! Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love endures forever.

Our God spoke and raised a gale, / lifting up towering waves.

Tossed to the sky, then plunged to the depths, / they lost their courage in the ordeal.

R: Alleluia! Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love endures forever.

Then they cried to Our God in their anguish. / Our God rescued them from their distress.

Reducing the storm to a whisper, / quieting the waves.

R: Alleluia! Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love endures forever.

Rejoicing at the stillness, / they landed safely at the harbor they desired.

Let them thank Our God for this faithful love, / for these deeds on our behalf.

R: Alleluia! Give thanks to Our God who is good, whose love endures forever.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 30

Response: I praise You, O God, because You have saved me.

I cried to You for help, my God, / and You healed me.

You brought me back from the world of the dead.

I was with those who go down to the depths below, / but You restored my life.

R: I praise You, O God, because You have saved me.

Sing praise to God, you faithful people!

Remember what God has done, and give thanks!

God's anger lasts only a moment, / God's goodness for a lifetime;

There may be tears during the night, / but joy comes in the morning.

R: I praise You, O God, because You have saved me.

Hear me, Adonai, and be merciful! / Help me, O God!

You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance.

Adonai, You are my God. / I will give thanks to You forever.

R: I praise You, O God, because You have saved me.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 123

Response: So our eyes are on You, O God.

To You have I lifted up my eyes, / You who dwell in the heavens.

Behold, like the eyes of slaves / are on the hand of their master.

R: So our eyes are on You, O God.

Like the eyes of servants / on the hand of their mistress.

So our eyes are on You, O God, / till You show us Your mercy.

R: So our eyes are on You, O God.

Have mercy on us, O God! Have mercy! / We have endured much contempt.

Indeed, all too full is our soul / with scorn from the rich, / with scorn from the proud.

R: So our eyes are on You, O God.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 85

Response: Let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

I will hear what You, O God, have to say, / a voice that speaks of peace,
Peace for Your faithful / and those who turn to You in hope.
Your help is near for those who fear You / and Your glory will dwell in our land.

R: Let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness will spring
from the earth / and justice looks down from heaven.

R: Let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

Adonai, You will make us prosper, / and our earth will yield its fruit.
Justice will march before You, / and peace will follow Your steps.

R: Let us see Your faithfulness, and give us Your saving help.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 23

Response: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.
In verdant pastures You give me repose.
Beside restful waters You lead me, / You refresh my soul.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

You guide me in right paths / for Your name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley / I fear no evil;
For You are at my side
With Your rod and Your staff / that give me courage.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

You spread the table before me / in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil; / my cup overflows.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

Only goodness and kindness follow me / all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in Your house / for years to come.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 145

Response: You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Let all Your works give You thanks, O God, / and let Your faithful ones bless You.
Let them discourse of the glory of Your reign / and speak of Your might.

R: You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The eyes of all look hopefully to You, / and You give them their food in due season;
You open Your hand / and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R: You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Adonai, you are just in all Your ways / and holy in all Your works.
You are near to all who call upon You, / to all who call upon You in truth.

R: You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 78

Response: You gave them the bread of heaven.

Things we have heard and known, / things our ancestors have declared to us,
We will tell the generation to come / of Your glorious deeds, O God;
Your power, and the wonders You have done.

R: You gave them the bread of heaven.

Yet You gave a command to the skies above / and opened the doors of the heavens.
You rained down manna for the people to eat / and gave them the bread of heaven.

R: You gave them the bread of heaven.

They ate the bread of the mighty / You sent them more than enough food to eat.
Thus You brought them to the border of Your holy land,
to the hill country Your right hand had won.

R: You gave them the bread of heaven.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 34

Response: O taste and see that God is good!

I will bless God at all times, / praise will continually be in my mouth.
My soul will rejoice in Our God, let the humble hear it and be glad.

R: O taste and see that God is good!

Glorify Our God with me / and let us exalt God's name together.
I sought Our God, who answered me / and freed me from all my fears.

R: O taste and see that God is good!

Those who look to Our God are radiant, / their faces are never put to shame.
The poor called; Our God heard / and saved them out of all their troubles.

R: O taste and see that God is good!

The angel of Our God encamps around those / who revere God and rescues them.
O taste and see that Our God is good! / Blessed are those who trust in God.

R: O taste and see that God is good!

ASSUMPTION VIGIL (August 14) -- Psalm 132

Response: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, You and the Ark of Your holiness.

At Ephrata we heard of the Ark, / we found it in the plains of Yearim.
Let us go to the place of God's dwelling; / let us go to kneel at Our God's footstool.

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, You and the Ark of Your holiness.

Your priests will be clothed with holiness; / Your faithful will ring out their joy.
For the sake of David Your faithful one, / do not reject Your anointed.

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, You and the Ark of Your holiness.

For Our God has chosen Zion / and has desired it for a dwelling;
"This is my resting-place forever, / here have I chosen to live."

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, You and the Ark of Your holiness.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION -- Psalm 45

Response: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

At your right hand stands the queen / in gold of Ophir.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Hear, O daughter, consider, and incline your ear
Forget your people and your ancestor's home.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

And the sovereign will desire your beauty.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

With joy and gladness they are led along / as they enter the palace of the sovereign.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 34

Response: O taste and see that Our God is good!

I will bless Our God at all times, / praise will continually be in my mouth.
My soul will rejoice in God, / let the humble hear it and be glad!

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

Revere the Most High, you saints, / for there is nothing lacking to those who fear God.
The lions may grow weak and hungry,
But those who seek Our God will lack nothing good.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

Come, daughters and sons, listen to me, / I will teach you reverence for Our God.
Which of you wants to live to the full, / loves long life and enjoys prosperity?

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

Keep your tongue from evil / and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn away from evil and practice good, / seek peace and follow after it.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 34

Response: O taste and see that Our God is good!

I will bless Our God at all times, / praise will continually be in my mouth.

My soul will rejoice in Our God, / let the humble hear it and be glad.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

The eyes of Our God are toward the just, / and God's ears are open to their cry.

The face of Our God is against the evildoers, / to root up their memory from the earth.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

The righteous cried, the Most High heard / and saved them out of all their troubles.

Our God is close to the brokenhearted, / and rescues those whose spirit is crushed.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

Many are the afflictions of the just, / but out of them all Our God delivers them.

Our God protects their very bones, / not one of them is broken.

R: O taste and see that Our God is good!

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 15

Response: O God, who has the right to enter Your tent? Those who always do what is right.

Those whose way of life is blameless, / who always do what is right,

Who speak the truth from their heart, / whose tongue is not used for slander.

R: O God, who has the right to enter Your tent? Those who always do what is right.

Who do no wrong to friends, / cast no discredit on neighbors,

Who look with contempt on the reprobate / but honor those who fear You.

R: O God, who has the right to enter Your tent? Those who always do what is right.

Who do not ask interest on loans, / and cannot be bribed to exploit the innocent.

If they do all this, / nothing can ever shake them.

R: O God, who has the right to enter Your tent? Those who always do what is right.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 146

Response: Praise Our God, O my soul!

You who keep faith forever, / secures justice for the oppressed,
And give food to the hungry. / Adonai, You set captives free.

R: Praise Our God, O my soul!

Adonai, You give sight to the blind.
You raise up those that were bowed down / and love the just.
You protect strangers.

R: Praise Our God, O my soul!

The orphan and the widow You sustain, / but the way of the wicked You thwart, Adonai.
You will reign forever, / Our God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia!

R: Praise Our God, O my soul!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 116

Response: I walk before You, Adonai, in the land of the living.

I love You, Adonai, because You have heard / my voice and my supplications.
Because You have inclined Your ear to me, / therefore, I will call on You as long as I live.

R: I walk before You, Adonai, in the land of the living.

The cords of death encompassed me, / the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered sorrow and anguish. / Then I called on Your name, Adonai.
Oh Adonai, I beseech You, save my life!

R: I walk before You, Adonai, in the land of the living.

Gracious are You, Adonai, and righteous, / You are full of compassion.
You protect the simple-hearted; / when I was brought low, You saved me.

R: I walk before You, Adonai, in the land of the living.

For You, Adonai, have delivered my soul from death,

My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I walk before You, Adonai, / in the land of the living.

R: I walk before You, Adonai, in the land of the living.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 54

Response: God is the one who sustains my life.

Save me, O God, by the power of Your name / and defend me by Your might.

O God, hear my prayer, / listen to my supplication.

R: God is the one who sustains my life.

The insolent rise to attack me, / the ruthless seek my life; / they have no regard for God.

R: God is the one who sustains my life.

But God is my helper, / the One who sustains my life.

I will offer You a willing sacrifice / and praise Your name, for it is good.

R: God is the one who sustains my life.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 128

Response: Your precepts, Adonai, they gladden the heart.

Your law, Adonai, is perfect; / it refreshes the soul.

Your rule is to be trusted; / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: Your precepts, Adonai, they gladden the heart.

Fear of You, Adonai, is holy, / abiding forever.

Your degrees are faithful, / and all of them just.

R: Your precepts, Adonai, they gladden the heart.

So in them Your servant finds instruction, / in keeping them is great reward.

But who can detect failings? / From hidden faults forgive me.

R: Your precepts, Adonai, they gladden the heart.

From presumption restrain Your servant / and let it not rule me.

Then I will be blameless, / free from grave sin.

R: Your precepts, Adonai, they gladden the heart.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 128

Response: May Our God bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

O blessed are you who fear the Most High / and walk in God's ways!
You will eat the fruit of your labor. / Happy will you be and prosperous.

R: May Our God bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

You will be like a fruitful vine within your house,
Your children like shoots of the olive around your table.

R: May Our God bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

Indeed thus will one be blessed / who fears God.
May God bless you from Zion / all the days of your life!

R: May Our God bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children / in a happy Jerusalem! Peace be upon Israel.

R: May Our God bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 90

Response: When morning comes, fill us with Your love, and then we will celebrate all our days.

Make us realize the shortness of life / that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Adonai, relent! Is Your anger forever? / Have mercy on Your servants.

R: When morning comes, fill us with Your love, and then we will celebrate all our days.

When morning comes, fill us with Your love, / and then we will celebrate all our days.
Balance our afflictions with joy, / for years we only knew misfortune.

R: When morning comes, fill us with Your love, and then we will celebrate all our days.

Show Your servants what You do for them, / may Your glory shine on their children.
May the goodness of Our God be upon us! / Grant success to the work of our hands.

Grant success to the work of our hands.

R: When morning comes, fill us with Your love, and then we will celebrate all our days.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 33

Response: May Your faithful love be upon us, O God, as we place all our hope in You.

For the word of the Creator is faithful, / and all God's works are to be trusted.

The Creator loves justice and right / and fills the earth with love.

R: May your faithful love be upon us, O God, / as we place all our hope in You.

The Creator looks on those who stand in reverence, / on those who hope in God's love,

To rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine.

R: May your faithful love be upon us, O God, / as we place all our hope in You.

Our soul is waiting for God, / our help and our shield.

May Your love be upon us, O God, / as we place all our hope in You.

R: May your faithful love be upon us, O God, as we place all our hope in You.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 146

Response: God has done great things for us; we are truly glad.

When God brought back the captives of Zion, / we were like those who dream.

Then our mouths were filled with laughter / and our tongues with rejoicing.

R: God has done great things for us; we are truly glad.

Then they said among the nations, / "God has done great things for them."

God has done great things for us; / we are truly glad.

R: God has done great things for us; we are truly glad.

Restore our fortunes, O God, / like the streams in the Negeb!

May those who sow in tears / reap with songs of joy!

R: God has done great things for us; we are truly glad.

Those that go forth weeping, / carrying the seed for sowing

Will come home with shouts of joy, / bringing the sheaves with them.

R: God has done great things for us; we are truly glad.

ALL SAINTS (November 1) -- Psalm 24

Response: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

The world and all that is in it belong to Our God,
The earth and all who live on it.
Our God built it on the deep waters beneath the earth,
And laid its foundations in the ocean depths.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

Who has the right to go up Our God's hill?
Who is allowed to enter Our God's Temple?
Those who are pure in act and in thought,
Who do not worship idols, or make false promises.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

Our God will bless them. / God their savior will declare them innocent.
Such are the people who come to God, / who come into the presence of God.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

ALL SOULS (November 2) -- Psalm 15

Response: Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants.

Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants. / In verdant pastures
You give me repose. Beside restful waters You lead me. / You refresh my soul.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants.

You guide me in right paths / for Your Name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley, / I fear no evil; for You are at my side
With Your rod and Your staff / that give me courage.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants.

You spread the table before me / in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil. / My cup overflows.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants.

Only goodness and kindness follow me / all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in Your house / for years to come.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd, I have no wants.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 18

Response: I love You, O God, my strength.

I love You, O God, my strength. / You are my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,

My shield, and the horn of my salvation, / my stronghold.

I call upon You, who are worthy to be praised, / and I am saved from my enemies.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

Our God lives, and blessed be my rock, / and exalted be the God of my salvation.

Great triumph You give to Your leader, / and show steadfast love to Your anointed.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 146

Response: Praise God, O my soul!

Adonai, You keep faith forever, / secure justice for the oppressed,

And You give food to the hungry. / Adonai, You set captives free.

R: Praise God, O my soul!

You give sight to the blind. / You raise up those that were bowed down and love the just.

You protect strangers.

R: Praise God, O my soul!

The orphan and the widow You sustain, / but the way of the wicked You thwart.

The Most High will reign forever, / your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R: Praise God, O my soul!

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME -- Psalm 16

Response: Protect me, O God, because I come to You for safety.

You, Adonai, are all I have, / and You give me all I need; / my life is in Your hands.

I am always aware of Your presence; / You are near, and nothing can shake me.

R: Protect me, O God, because I come to You for safety.

And so I am full of happiness and joy, / and I always feel secure;

Because You will not allow me / to go to the world of the dead;

You will not abandon to the depths below / the one You love.

R: Protect me, O God, because I come to You for safety.

You will show me the path that leads to life;

Your presence fills me with joy, / and Your help delights forever.

R: Protect me, O God, because I come to You for safety.

THANKSGIVING DAY -- Psalm 67

Response: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

O God, show kindness and bless us, / and make Your face smile on us!

For then the earth will acknowledge Your ways /

and all the nations will know of Your power to save.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

Let the nations praise You, O God, / let all the nations praise You.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

The soil has given its harvest; / God, Our God, has blessed us.

May God bless us, and let God be feared / to the very ends of the earth.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

Response: O God, You reign, You are robed in splendor.

O God, You reign, / You are robed in splendor and clothed with strength.

R: O God, You reign, You are robed in splendor.

The world is firmly established; / it cannot be moved.

Your judgment seat has stood since long ago; / You are everlasting.

R: O God, You reign, You are robed in splendor.

Your decrees stand firm; / holiness adorns Your house / for endless days.

R: O God, You reign, You are robed in splendor.

