

CYCLE C



INCLUSIVE LECTIONARY

Sunday Readings with
Responsorial Psalms



INCLUSIVE LECTIONARIES: CYCLE A, B, & C

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Introduction

By Rev. Joseph Dearborn

If there is one word to describe the process of developing inclusive language readings, it is transformational. The transformation we have experienced in our work on these readings challenged us to confront the limits of our language and to ask what baggage is attached to our proclamation scripture. We have been challenged to consider how we think and speak about God and how our concepts influence the way we treat other people. We also have had to consider whether modern renderings of sacred scriptures present modern sexist biases, in addition to biases of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean cultures. In the course of our work, we developed new ideas about the role of sacred scripture in liturgy.

The comments and criticisms of those who have used the Inclusive Lectionary texts have greatly benefited us. For example, in September 1991, we sent a questionnaire to everyone who has used the Inclusive Lectionary Texts, asking for information on use, content, and presentation. We received more than 200 written responses. We considered the feedback carefully and the improvements in these volumes reflect the dialogue.

We are frequently asked whether, after changing the language, we can still call what we are producing “scripture.” Our answer is that we are not changing scripture. We are developing ways to proclaim sacred scripture in a nonsexist, nonclassist manner within the context of the Liturgy of the Word. To do this, we change the forms of language that reflect and perpetuate sexist, heterosexist, and classist concepts.

We challenge the traditional ways of speaking about God. Traditional Western religious language calls God “Father” and Jesus “Lord.” Our intention is to recover the sense of the text and express that sense in a manner that facilitates immediate application of the Word to the experience of the listener. To that end, we correct our own interpretations by referring them to what scripture scholars have to say about the texts.

This process begins with looking through the standard translations of scripture for sexist and classist forms and attitudes. We compare translations, consult commentaries, and go back to the Hebrew and Greek to uncover meanings. Realizing that any translation is an interpretation, we do not limit ourselves to the standard translations, but also look at other inclusive language texts and style forms to understand how others have worked through the problems of sexism in scripture. We go over each text line by line in order to ensure a faithful, yet nonsexist rendering in both content and style.

The most difficult problem we address is what can be done about the sexism in scripture without destroying the actual text. Several guiding principles have emerged from our work on this problem. One principle is to determine whether it is the linguistic convention used that expresses a sexist bias, or whether the text itself is sexist in its meaning. In all circumstances, we seek to recover the expression’s meaning within the context in which it is written, without perpetuating the sexism. To accomplish this, we rely on the Greek text as well as commentaries.

An example of the way we recover meaning from a sexist phrase is in our rendering of “Whore of Babylon” or “Great Prostitute” in the book of Revelation (Rev.

17:1-18). In the standard translations, the word “prostitute” is used to translate a word that, to the culture of the Mediterranean world of the time, was closely related to idolatrous defilement. In our culture, the term implies sex for sale, and is usually associated with women. The sense of the term in scripture has more to do with the idolatry of emperor worship and cultic practices than with prostitution. We believe “Great Idolater” comes closer to the actual sense of the text.

Another principle we use is to distinguish between passages that exclude women and passages that actively villainize them. Each of these instances has been handled on its own terms. The role of women in the economy of salvation has long been relegated to the sacristies of salvation history. By attending to recent feminist scripture scholarship, we attempt to recover women’s active participation in salvation history. In genealogies, for example, we include both spouses to emphasize that ancestral lineage is not merely passed on by the male. Thus, we speak of Sarah and Abraham instead of Abraham alone; we pair Rebecca and Isaac; and we recognize Leah and Rachel as well as Jacob. When this cannot be done, we stress the actual lineage instead of the male role in the lineage. We also emphasize those times when scripture employs feminine imagery for divine or spiritual beings. In Wisdom literature, we retain the ancient feminine images.

Scriptural language specifically referring to God presents a major problem. Our approach is to try to maintain a personal form. Personal references in common speech have constant recourse to gender-specific words—necessarily so, and for the most part, inoffensively. In the case of scripture, we make our choices as the occasion warrants.

Where the usage is descriptive, we use “*Most High, Most High God, Almighty* and *Sovereign One* in place of the sexist and classist form *Lord*. Where *Lord* is a form of address, we use *YHWH* in Hebrew Scripture readings and either *Rabbi* or *Teacher* in Christian Scripture readings about Jesus’ public ministry. We use *Abba* for *Father*, where it expresses a close, familial relationship. We also used the phrase *Loving God* as a substitute for *Father*. There are several other options that we discussed but did not use. In the text of the “Our Father,” *Imma God, Our Mother, Our Father, or Loving God* can be used as substitutes for our rendering of *Abba God*.

In referring to Jesus, we use *Only Begotten, God’s Own, and Eternally Begotten* in place of *Son of God*. *Son of Man* is a difficult problem because it has so many different shades of meaning. We try to capture the prophetic or apocalyptic connotations of the phrase. We use *Chosen One* when it seems to refer to Jesus’ self-understanding of his prophetic mission, and *Promised One* when Jesus appears to be speaking about his self-identity as an apocalyptic figure. Another instance of *son of man* is found in the book of Ezekiel. In this book, God is addressing humankind, so we use *mere mortal*.

The title *Lord*, especially when it refers to Jesus, is hard to replace because it is confessional—that is, to call Jesus Lord is to both recognize in him a divinity and to make a commitment to him. To confess that Jesus is Lord is to confess, for example, Caesar is not Lord. To avoid sexist and classist connotations, we use substitutes for *Lord* that are meaningful in our own confessing of Jesus, such as *Sovereign, Savior, and Jesus Reigns*.

Throughout the readings, we have changed “kingdom,” which has classist connotations, to refer simply to government and its rulers. In the case of kingdom of God, however, there is more than one meaning; thus, several translations are needed. In the gospel of Matthew, *kingdom of God* means an active state of being, and we use reign of

God or reign of Heaven. Other than its use in Matthew, *kingdom of God* is a state of relationship, so we use *kindom of God*.

Thank you for using these texts, and for all your efforts to make the church a community that welcomes diversity while witnessing that in Christ, all are one. We recognize that any rendering of scripture should be undertaken with the utmost discretion and humility. Beyond that, our only defense for our errors or arbitrary decisions—whether detectable or hidden—is that the texts to which our labors are addressed speak of mysteries beyond the reach of any translator. We hope that we are respectful of these mysteries, which will outlast any attempt to capture them in words.

Rev. Joseph Dearborn, a priest from the Diocese of Kansas City, served as coordinator of the Inclusive Bible Project and National Secretary of Priests for Equality, a program of the Quixote Center, from 1987 until his retirement in 2004.

Table of Movable Feasts

Year	Ash Wednesday	Palm Sunday	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter	Ascension	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday	Advent Begins
2021	17-Feb	28-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr	4-Apr	13-May	23-May	30-May	28-Nov
2022	2-Mar	10-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	17-Apr	26-May	5-Jun	12-Jun	27-Nov
2023	22-Feb	2-Apr	6-Apr	7-Apr	9-Apr	18-May	28-May	4-Jun	3-Dec
2024	14-Feb	24-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	31-Mar	9-May	19-May	26-May	1-Dec
2025	5-Mar	13-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	20-Apr	29-May	8-Jun	15-Jun	30-Nov
2026	18-Feb	29-Mar	2-Apr	3-Apr	5-Apr	14-May	24-May	31-May	29-Nov
2027	10-Feb	21-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	28-Mar	6-May	16-May	23-May	28-Nov
2028	1-Mar	9-Apr	13-Apr	14-Apr	16-Apr	25-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	3-Dec
2029	14-Feb	25-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar	1-Apr	10-May	20-May	27-May	2-Dec
2030	6-Mar	14-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	21-Apr	30-May	9-Jun	16-Jun	1-Dec
2031	26-Feb	6-Apr	10-Apr	11-Apr	13-Apr	22-May	1-Jun	8-Jun	30-Nov
2032	11-Feb	21-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	28-Mar	6-May	16-May	23-May	28-Nov

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14 -16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will bestow on Israel and Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David, who will

bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days Judah will be safe and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, “YHWH is our Justice.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

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

May Christ increase to overflowing your love for one another and for all people, even as our love does for you; may Christ strengthen your hearts, making them blameless and holy before our Abba God at the coming of our Savior Jesus with all the holy ones.

Now, my sisters and brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in our Savior Jesus, to

make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live — the life that God wants, as you learned from us, and as you are already living it.

You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you by the authority of our Savior Jesus.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

ALLELUIA!

*O God, let us see your kindness
and grant us your salvation.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples: “Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and

raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.

“Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. The day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.”

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

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 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 all might praise the glory of God’s grace

which was freely bestowed on us in God’s beloved, Jesus 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.

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION — continued

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!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your robe of misery and mourning;
you will wear YHWH's glorious splendor forever.
Wrapped in the cloak of YHWH's justice,
you will wear on your head the crown
that displays the glory of the eternal Name.
For YHWH will show all the earth your splendor;
your eternal name will be
"Peace Through Justice, and Honor Through Devotedness."
Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children
gathered from the east and the west
at the Word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that YHWH remembers them.
Led away on foot by their enemies, they left you:
but YHWH will bring them back to you,
borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.
For YHWH has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low,
and that the age-old depths and gorges
filled to level ground,
that Israel may advance
secure in the glory of YHWH.
The forests and every fragrant kind of tree
will give shade to Israel at YHWH's command;
for YHWH is leading Israel in joy by the light of divine glory,
escorted by mercy and justice.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice at the way you have all continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day. And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus.

God knows how much I long for each of you with all the affection of Christ Jesus! My prayer is that your love may

abound more and more, both in understanding and in wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you be found rich in the harvest of justice that Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

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: Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. In those days, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, begot of Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for

the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A herald’s voice in the desert, crying, ‘Make ready the way of Our God; clear a straight path. Every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The twisted paths will be made straight and the rough road smooth — and all humankind will see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, fair Zion;
shout, Israel, be glad!
Rejoice with all your heart, fair Jerusalem.
YHWH has averted your punishment
and swept away your foes.
Israel, YHWH is among you as ruler;
never again need you fear disaster.
On that day this must be the message to Jerusalem:
Fear not, Zion, let not your hands hang limp in despair,
for YHWH your God is in your midst,
a warrior to keep you safe;
who will rejoice over you and be glad of it;
who will show you love once more,
and exult with songs of joy
and soothe those who are grieving.
At the appointed time I will take away your cries of woe
and you will no longer endure reproach.

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

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice! Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

ALLELUIA!

*The Spirit of the Most High is upon me,
and has sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the people asked him, “What should we do?” John replied, “Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none. Let those who have food do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to John, “Teacher, what are we to do?”

John answered them, “Exact nothing over and above your fixed amount.”

Soldiers likewise asked, “What about us?” John told them, “Do not bully anyone. Do not accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay.”

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, “I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire.” Using exhortations like this, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Thus says YHWH:

“As for you, Bethlehem in Ephrathah,
small as you are among Judah’s clans,
from you will come a ruler for me over Israel,
one whose goings out are from times long past, from ancient days.

But God will give them over to their enemies
until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the remnant of the ruler’s brothers and sisters
will return to the Children of Israel.

The ruler will rise up to shepherd them in the strength of YHWH,
by the power of the Name of YHWH, their God.

They will live in security, for now the ruler’s greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

They will say, ‘This at last is the one
who will be our peace.’ ”

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

And this is what Jesus said, on coming into the world:

“You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation
prepared a body for me.

In burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin
you took no pleasure.

Then I said, just as it was written of me
in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am!
I have come to do your will.’ ”

In saying that God does not want burnt offerings and sacrifices — which are offered according to the Law — and then saying, “I have come to do your will,” Jesus abolishes the first covenant in order to establish the second. By God’s will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

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 1:39-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

When 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!"

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS / MASS AT MIDNIGHT

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwell in a land of gloom
the light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
as they rejoice before you at the harvest,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor
you have smashed as at the defeat of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us;
upon whose shoulder dominion will rest.

They will name this one Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Savior-Forever, Ruler of Peace.

This dominion — and this peace —
will grow without end,
on David's judgment seat,
and over David's realm,
confirmed and sustained with judgment and justice,
both now and forever.

The zeal of YHWH will do this!

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

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS / MASS AT MIDNIGHT — continued

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 (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.”
You will be called “Frequented,”
and “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 them, 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.**

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS / MASS DURING THE DAY

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.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS — MASS DURING THE DAY / continued

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.

(continued)

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

MASS DURING THE DAY — continued

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.

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!

HOLY FAMILY / SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

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 bring 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: 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, Simeon 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 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!*

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 YHWH,
she glories in herself in the presence of JYHWH.

“I came forth from the mouth of JYHWH,
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 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — continued

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!

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — continued

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 are we; members of the Body, and partakers of the promise of Jesus the Messiah through the Good News, as are we.

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 (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 YHWH 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!*

BAPTISM 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 shout aloud,
Or make your voice heard in the street.
You do not break a bruised reed,
Or quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully you bring true justice;
You will neither waver nor be crushed
Until true justice is established on earth,
For the islands are awaiting your teaching.
I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right.
I have taken you by the hand and formed you.
I have appointed you as a covenant of the people
and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of those who are blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

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

BAPTISM OF JESUS *continued*

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and the people assembled in the house in these words, “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 preached. 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”

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

ALLELUIA!

The heavens were opened and a voice was heard:

This is my Only Begotten, Listen!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-16, 22-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, “I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.”

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests.”

The Good News of Salvation

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ.

ASH WEDNESDAY

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 YHWH, Your God?
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: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses told the people the priest will receive the basket from you and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH. Then you will declare before YHWH, “My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to YHWH, the God of our ancestors, who heard

our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products of the soil that you have given me.” Then you must set them before YHWH, and bow down before the Most High.

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

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What does Scripture say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.” This is the Word of faith. For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Sovereign and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to being put right with God, confession on the lips to our deliverance.

Scripture says, “No one who believes in God will be put to shame.” Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek; all have the same Creator, rich in mercy toward those who call. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Most High will be saved.”

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

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: Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, and he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, “If you are God’s own, command this stone to turn into bread.” Jesus answered, “Scripture has it, ‘We do not live on bread alone.’”

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, “I will give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours.”

In reply, Jesus said, “Scripture has it:

You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’”

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple, and said, “If you are God’s Own, throw yourself down from here, for Scripture has it,

‘God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they will support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.’”

Jesus said to the Devil in reply, “It also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants.” Abram believed YHWH, and YHWH accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

YHWH then said to Abram, “I am YHWH who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.”

Abram asked, “YHWH, how am I to know that I will possess it?”

YHWH answered Abram, “Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

Abram brought all of these, cut them in half, and placed each half opposite the other — except the birds, which he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking brazier and a flaming torch appeared, which passed between the halves of the sacrifices. On that day YHWH made this covenant with Abram: “To your descendants I give this land, from the River of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

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

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Join in following my example, my sisters and brothers. Take as your guide those who follow the example that we set. Unfortunately, many go about in a way that shows them to be enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often said this to you before; this time I say it with tears: their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and their glory is in their shame. I am talking about those whose minds are set upon the things of this world.

But we have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, who will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of the glorified body, by Christ’s power to bring everything under subjection.

For these reasons, my sisters and brothers — you whom I so love and long for, you who are my joy and my crown — continue, my dear ones, to stand firm in Christ Jesus.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

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: Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up onto a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus — Moses and Elijah.

They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory — and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus,

“Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Peter did not really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice, which said, “This one is my Own, my Chosen One. Listen to him!”

When the voice finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings from Cycle A may be substituted when catechumens are present, preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in blazing fire from the midst of a thorn bush. Moses saw — “The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it is not consumed!” Moses said, “Let me go over to look at this remarkable sight — and see why the bush does not burn up.”

When YHWH saw Moses coming over to look at it more closely, YHWH called out to him from the midst of the bush: “Moses! Moses!”

Moses answered, “I am here.”

YHWH said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground!”

“I am the God of your ancestors,” the voice continued, “the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One.

Then YHWH said, “I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

“But,” Moses said, “when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is this god’s name?’, what am I to tell them?”

YHWH replied, “I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

YHWH spoke further to Moses, “Tell the children of Israel: ‘The Most High, the ‘I AM’, the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations.”

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want you to remember this: our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; by the cloud and the sea, all of them were baptized into Moses. All ate the same spiritual food. All drank the same spiritual drink — they drank from the spiritual rock that was following them, and the rock was Christ, yet we know that God was not pleased with most of them, for “they were struck down in the desert.” These things

happened as an example to keep us from evil desires such as theirs.

Nor are you to grumble as some of them did, for which they were killed by the destroying angel. The things that happened to them serve as an example and have been written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. For all these reasons, let those who think they are standing upright watch out lest they fall!

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!

*Repent, says Our God,
The reign of heaven is close at hand.*

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

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were guiltier than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you change your ways.

Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but did not find any. The owner said to the vinedresser, ‘Look here! For three years now I have come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’

“In reply, the vine dresser said, ‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’ ”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings from Cycle A may be substituted when catechumens are present, preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9, 10-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Joshua.

YHWH said to Joshua, “Today I rolled away from you the reproach of Egypt.”

During their encampment at Gilgal, the Children of Israel offered the Passover sacrifice at sunset on the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover they ate the produce

of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. On that same day, after the Passover on which they ate of the unleavened cakes and roasted grain, the manna stopped falling for the Children of Israel. They ate the crops of Canaan from that year on.

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

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

And for anyone who is in Christ, there is new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new!

All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ — and made us ministers of that reconciliation. This means that through Christ, the world was fully reconciled again to God, who did not hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this

message of reconciliation. This makes us 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.

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!

*The old order has passed away,
for we were dead and now have come to life again.*

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

NARRATOR: The tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus addressed this parable to them: “A man had two children. The younger of them said to their father,

FIRST SON: Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.

NARRATOR: So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

After everything was spent, a great famine broke over the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said:

FIRST SON: How many hired hands at my father’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I will quit and go back home and say, “I have sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.”

NARRATOR: With that, the younger son set off for his home.

While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. The son said to him:

FIRST SON: I have sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.

NARRATOR: But his father said to one of the workers:

FATHER: Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we have been fattening and butcher it. Let us eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he is found.

NARRATOR: And the celebration began.

Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked:

SECOND SON: What is happening?

NARRATOR: The worker answered, “Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.”

The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. He said in reply:

SECOND SON: Look! For years now I have done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, you kill the fatted calf for him.

FATHER: But my child! You are with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he is found.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings from Cycle A may be substituted when catechumens are present, preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says YHWH,
 who made a road through the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
who led chariots and warriors to their doom,
 a mighty army fallen, never to rise again,
 snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:
“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.
Wild beasts will honor me —
 the jackals and the ostriches —
 for I will put water in the desert
 and rivers in the wasteland
 for my chosen people to drink,
 these people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.”

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

What is more, I consider everything a loss in light of the surpassing knowledge of my Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake I have forfeited everything. I count everything else as garbage, so that Christ may be my wealth — indeed, that I may be found in Christ, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the Law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the

pattern of Jesus' death — perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course; but I am running the race in order to grab hold of the prize if possible, because Jesus Christ has grabbed hold of me. Sisters and brothers, I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind, but I push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize — the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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!

*With all your heart turn to me
for I am tender and compassionate.*

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

Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak, he reappeared in the Temple area, and when the people started coming to him, Jesus sat down and began to teach them.

A couple had been caught in the act of adultery, though the religious scholars and Pharisees brought only the woman, and they made her stand there in front of everyone. “Teacher,” they said, “this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. In the Law of Moses, the punishment for this act is stoning. What do you say about it?” They were posing this question to trap Jesus so that they could charge him with something.

Jesus simply bent down and started tracing on the ground with his finger. When they

persisted in their questioning, Jesus straightened up and said to them, “Let the person among you who is without sin throw the first stone at her.” Then he bent down again and wrote on the ground.

The audience drifted away one by one, beginning with the elders. This left Jesus alone with the woman, who continued to stand there. Jesus finally straightened up again and said, “Where did they go? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, Teacher,” came the reply.

“I do not condemn you either. Go on your way — but from now on, do not sin any more.”

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

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

Reading for the Blessing of the Palms/Procession Luke 19:28-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.

Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions: “Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it.’”

They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you doing that?”

They explained that the Rabbi needed it. Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount.

People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying:

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

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

Jesus replied, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!”

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

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

YHWH has given me a well-trained tongue
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning after morning, YHWH awakens me,
to hear as disciples do.

YHWH opens my ears;
I was not disobedient,
I did not turn back;

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who humiliated me;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Most High helps me,
therefore I am not dishonored;
therefore I have set my face firm.

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.

Each of you should think of the interests of others before your own. 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 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 SUNDAY— continued

The Passion reading is divided into six speaking roles:

- (1) *Narrator*
- (2) *Jesus*
- (3) *Peter*
- (4) *All*
- (5) *Attendant*
- (6) *Speaker*

The Passion is proclaimed without the Gospel greeting. Candles and incense are never used. A homily should follow the Passion proclamation.

Passion Reading: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

NARRATOR: When the hour had come, Jesus took a place at the table with the apostles. Jesus said to them:

JESUS: I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I will not eat it again until everything is fulfilled in the reign of God.

NARRATOR: Then taking a cup of wine, Jesus gave thanks and said:

JESUS: Take this and share it among you. I tell you, I will not drink wine from now on, until the reign of God comes.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus took bread and gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

JESUS: This is my body, which will be given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

NARRATOR: Jesus did the same with the cup after supper and said:

JESUS: This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which will be poured out for you.

Look! The hand of my betrayer is at this table with me. The Chosen One is following the appointed course. But woe to the person by whom that One is betrayed.

NARRATOR: Then they began to argue among themselves as to which of them would do such a deed.

Another dispute arose among them about who would be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them:

JESUS: Earthly rulers domineer over their people. Those who exercise authority over them are called their ‘benefactors.’ This must not happen with you. Let the greatest among you be like the youngest. Let the leader among you become the follower. For who is the greater? The one who reclines at meal, or the one who serves it? Is it not the one reclining at the table? Yet here I am among you as the one who serves you.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

You are the ones who have stood by me faithfully in trials. Just as God has given me dominion, so I give it to you. In my reign, you will eat and drink at my table, and you will sit on the thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon! Satan has demanded that you be sifted like wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. You, in turn, must give strength to your sisters and brothers.

PETER: Rabbi, with you I am prepared to face imprisonment and even death.

JESUS: I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today you will have denied three times that you know me.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them:

JESUS: When I sent you out on the mission without purse, traveling bag or sandals, were you in need of anything?

CROWD (ALL): No, nothing!

JESUS: Now, however, the one who has a purse had better carry it; the same with a traveling bag. And if they do not have a sword, they should sell their cloaks and buy one! For I tell you, what was written in scripture must be fulfilled in me: “The suffering servant was counted among criminals” — for whatever refers to me must be fulfilled.

NARRATOR: And they said:

ALL: Look, Rabbi, here are two swords!

NARRATOR: Jesus answered:

JESUS: That is enough.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives.

The disciples accompanied him. When they reached the place, Jesus said to them:

JESUS: Pray that you not be put to the test.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus withdrew about a stone’s throw from them, knelt, and prayed:

JESUS: Abba, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.

NARRATOR: An angel then appeared to Jesus from heaven to strengthen him. In anguish, Jesus prayed all the more fervently, and sweat, like drops of blood, fell to the ground. When Jesus rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, exhausted with grief. He said to them:

JESUS: Why do you sleep? Wake up, and pray that you not be subjected to the trial.

NARRATOR: While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd suddenly appeared with Judas, one of the twelve, at their head. Judas came over to Jesus to embrace him, but Jesus said:

JESUS: Judas, are you betraying the Chosen One with a kiss?

NARRATOR: Those who were around Jesus, realizing what was going to happen, said:

ALL: Rabbi, shall we strike them with the sword?

NARRATOR: One of them struck the attendant of the high priest, cutting off an ear. But Jesus said:

JESUS: Stop! No more of this!

NARRATOR: Then Jesus touched the attendant’s ear and healed it.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

But to those who had come out against him — the chief priests, the chiefs of the Temple Guard and the elders — Jesus said:

JESUS: Why do you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? I was with you in the Temple every day, and you could have laid hands on me any time you wanted. But this is your hour — the triumph of darkness!

NARRATOR: They arrested Jesus and led him away, arriving at the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance and sat down in the midst of those who had kindled a fire in the courtyard and were sitting around it. One of the high priest's attendants saw him sitting there at the fire, and she stared at him and said:

ATTENDANT: This one was with Jesus, too.

NARRATOR: But Peter denied it:

PETER: I do not know him!

NARRATOR: A little later someone else noticed Peter and remarked:

SPEAKER: You are one of them too.

NARRATOR: But Peter said:

PETER: No, I am not.

NARRATOR: About an hour later, someone else insisted:

SPEAKER: Surely this fellow was with them, too. He even talks like a Galilean.

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

NARRATOR: Just then, as Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed. Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered Jesus saying, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Meanwhile, those who held Jesus in custody were amusing themselves at his expense.

They blindfolded and slapped him, and then taunted him.

SPEAKER: Play the prophet! Which one struck you?

NARRATOR: And they hurled insults at him.

At daybreak the Sanhedrin — which was made up of the elders of the people, the chief priests and the religious scholars — assembled again. Once they had brought Jesus before the council, they said:

ALL: Tell us, are you the Messiah?

NARRATOR: Jesus replied:

JESUS: If I tell you, you will not believe me. And if I question you, you will not answer! But from now on, the Chosen One will have a seat at the right hand of the Power of God.

ALL: So you are the Chosen One?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered:

JESUS: Your own words have said it!

ALL: What need do we have of witnesses? We have heard it from his own mouth!

NARRATOR: Then the whole assembly arose and led Jesus to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus by saying:

ALL: We found this one subverting our nation, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar and even claiming to be Messiah, a king.

NARRATOR: Then Pilate questioned Jesus.

SPEAKER: Are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS: You have said it.

NARRATOR: Then Pilate reported to the chief priests and the crowds:

SPEAKER: I find no guilt in him!

NARRATOR: But the crowds insisted:

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

ALL: He stirs up the people wherever he teaches, through the whole of Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem.

NARRATOR: On hearing this, Pilate asked whether Jesus was a Galilean, and learning that Jesus was from Herod's jurisdiction, sent Jesus off to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at this time.

Now, at the sight of Jesus, Herod was very pleased. From the reports he had heard about Jesus, he had wanted for a long time to see him. Herod hoped even to see Jesus perform some miracle.

Herod questioned him at great length, but Jesus would not answer. The chief priests and religious scholars stood there, accusing Jesus vehemently. So Herod and the soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and ridicule, put a magnificent robe upon him and sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate, who had previously been set against each other, became friends that day.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the ruling class and the people, and said to them:

SPEAKER: You have brought this person before me as someone one who incites people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for any charge against him arising from your allegations. Neither has Herod, for Jesus has been sent back to us. Obviously, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish Jesus, but then I will release him.

NARRATOR: Pilate was obligated to release one prisoner to the people at festive time. The whole crowd cried out as one:

ALL: Take him away! We want Barabbas!

NARRATOR: Barabbas had been imprisoned for starting a riot in the city, and for murder. Pilate wanted to release Jesus, so he addressed them again. But they shouted back:

ALL: Crucify him, crucify him!

NARRATOR: Yet a third time, Pilate spoke to the crowds:

SPEAKER: What wrong has this Jesus done? I have found nothing that calls for death! Therefore, I will have him flogged, and then I will release him.

NARRATOR: But they demanded that Jesus be crucified, and their shouts increased in volume. Pilate decided that their demands should be met. So he released Barabbas, the one who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder; and Jesus was handed over to the crowd.

As they led Jesus away, they seized Simon — a Cyrenean, who was just coming in from the fields — and forced him to carry the cross behind Jesus.

A large crowd was following, many of them women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. At one point, Jesus turned to these women and said:

JESUS: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me! Weep rather for yourselves and for your children! The time is coming when it will be said: "Blessed are the childless, the wombs that have never given birth and the breasts that have never nursed." Then people will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us up!" For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: Two others were also led off with Jesus, criminals who were to be put to death. When they had reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there — together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said:

JESUS: Abba, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.

NARRATOR: They divided his garments, rolling dice for them.

The people stood there watching. The rulers, however, jeered him and said:

ALL: He saved others, let him help himself — if he is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said:

SPEAKER: If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself!

NARRATOR: There was an inscription above Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, too, saying:

SPEAKER: Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself — and us!

NARRATOR: But the other answered the first with a rebuke:

SPEAKER: Do you not even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!

NARRATOR: Then he said:

SPEAKER: Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory.

NARRATOR: Jesus replied:

JESUS: The truth is, today you will be with me in paradise!

NARRATOR: It was about noon, and darkness fell on the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two, and Jesus uttered a loud cry and said:

JESUS: Abba, into your hands I commit my spirit.

NARRATOR: Saying this, Jesus breathed for the last time.

The centurion who saw this happen glorified God, saying:

SPEAKER: Surely this one was innocent.

(All kneel for a moment in prayer)

NARRATOR: When the crowds that had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts and weeping. All the acquaintances of Jesus and the women who had come with him from Galilee stood at a distance, looking on.

There was a member of the Sanhedrin named Joseph, who had not consented to their action. Joseph was from Arimathea and lived in anticipation of the reign of God. He approached Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph took the body down, wrapped it in fine linen and laid it in a tomb cut out of rock, where no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was drawing near.

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 11:23-36

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 said, "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, "Any who havetaken 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, then — 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!

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 God 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. A homily should follow the Passion proclamation.

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.

(continued)

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.

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 had 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 and 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.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

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?

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.

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.

(continued).

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

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 themselves, 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:

JESUS: It is finished.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

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

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 trees 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 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.

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — *continued*

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.

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 in 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 YHWH called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said:

(continued)

“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, 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

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — continued

panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they could hardly turn. The Egyptians turned to flee from the Israelites, saying, "YHWH 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, God'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!
YHWH is 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 YHWH.
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 unconsolated,
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 me, YHWH while I may still to be found,
 call upon me while I am 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.

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — continued

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 which 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 she lives,
who has entered Wisdom's treasure house?

(continued)

EASTER VIGIL — continued

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.
She is the book of the precepts of YHWH,
the Law that endures forever.
All who cling to her will live,
but they will die who forsake her.
Turn, O Israel, and receive her:
walk by her light toward splendor.
Do not give your glory to another,
your privileges to a people not your own.
Blessed are we, O Israel,
for what pleases YHWH has been revealed to us.

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 Your Sovereign God, “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!

EASTER SUNDAY

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.

EASTER SUNDAY — continued

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 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders occurred among the people. By mutual agreement, they used to meet in Solomon's Porch. But none of the others dared to join them, despite the fact that the people held the apostles in great esteem.

Even so, more and more believers, women and men in great numbers, were continually added to their community — to the extent

that people even carried their sick relatives and friends into the street and laid them on cots and mattresses, in the hope that when Peter passed by, his shadow might fall on one or another of them. Crowds from the towns around Jerusalem would gather, too, bringing their sick people and those who were troubled by unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, your brother, who share with you the trial, the kindom and the perseverance we have in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and bore witness to Jesus. It was the first day of the week and I was in the Spirit, when suddenly I heard behind me a piercing voice like the sound of a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see."

I turned around to see who spoke to me, and I saw seven lamp stands of gold and,

among the lamp stands, a figure of human appearance wearing an ankle-length robe with a golden sash across its chest.

When I saw it, I fell down as though dead. It touched me with its right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last, the Living One. Once I was dead, but now I live forever and ever. I hold the keys of death and the underworld. Write down, therefore, everything you see — things as they are now, and things that will take place in the future."

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

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, “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 those 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 5:27-32, 40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles were taken before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest began to interrogate them: “We gave you strict orders not to teach about that name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching — and you are determined to make us responsible for this Jesus blood.”

To this, Peter and the apostles replied, “Better for us to obey God than people! The God of our ancestors has raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a tree. This One, who has been exalted to God’s

right hand as Ruler and Savior, is to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are eyewitnesses to this. And so is the Holy Spirit, who has been given to those who obey God.”

The Sanhedrin flogged the apostles. After ordering them not to speak again in the name of Jesus, they dismissed them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin full of joy that they had been judged worthy to suffer shame for the sake of the Name.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, in my vision, heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne together with the living creatures and the elders. They were numberless, thousands and tens of thousands, and they all cried out:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise!

Then I heard the voice of every creature in heaven, on the earth, under the earth and in the sea. Everything in all creation cried aloud:

To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb,
be praise and honor,
glory and dominion,
forever and ever!

The four living creatures said, “Amen!,” and the elders fell on their faces and worshipped.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples a Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

Assembled were Simon Peter; Thomas “the Twin”, Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s children, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going out to fish.”

“We will join you,” they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them, “Have you caught anything, friends?”

“Not a thing,” they answered.

“Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, “and you will find something.”

So they made a cast and caught so many fish they could not haul the net in. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It is the Teacher!”

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak — he was naked — and jumped into the water.

Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land — no more than a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread being grilled. “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus told them. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish — one hundred fifty-three of them! In spite of the great number, the net was not torn.

“Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?” — They knew it was the Savior.

Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me more than these?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I am your friend.” Jesus said, “Tend my sheep.”

A second time Jesus put his question, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me?”

(continued)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — *continued*

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I am your friend.” Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.”

A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me as a friend would?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time. So he said: “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. The truth of the matter is, when you were young, you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will put a belt around you and take you where you do not want to go.”

With these words, Jesus indicated the sort of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then Jesus said, “Follow me.”

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas continued to travel on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath day they entered the synagogue and sat down.

When the synagogue service had broken up, many Jewish worshipers and God-fearing converts to Judaism joined Paul and Barnabas. In their talks, Paul and Barnabas urged them to continue in the grace of God.

On the next Sabbath, almost the entire city gathered to hear the word of God. When the leaders of the synagogue saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and began to contradict everything Paul said and to revile him.

Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly nonetheless: “We had to proclaim the word

of God to you first, but because you have yourselves worthy of eternal life — we now rejected it — because you do not think turn to the Gentiles. For this is what Christ instructed us to do:

‘I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’ ”

It made the Gentiles very happy to hear this, and they thanked God for the message. All who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of God was carried throughout that area.

But the leaders of the synagogue worked on some of the notable, God-fearing members of the community and convinced them to turn against Paul and Barnabas. They finally expelled them from the territory.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9,14-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, 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.

One of the elders said to me,

“These are the ones who survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. “That is why they stand before

God’s throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever.

Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, for the Lamb, who is at the center of the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 10:27-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice.

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life,

and they will never be lost.

No one will ever

snatch them out of my hand.

Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal them from Abba God.

For Abba God and I are one.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. *Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the Good News in the town of Derbe and made numerous disciples, they retraced their steps to Lystra and Iconium first, then to Antioch.

They put fresh heart in the disciples there, encouraging them to persevere in their faith. “We all have to experience many hardships,” they said, “before we enter the kingdom of God.” In each church they appointed elders and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to God, in whom they had put their faith.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had first been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival, they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and of how they had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

And I heard a loud voice calling from the throne, “Look! God’s Tabernacle is among humankind! God will live with them; they

will be God’s people, and God be fully present among them. The Most High will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more, for the old order has fallen.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Look! I am making everything new!” and added, “Write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true.”

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-33, 34-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Once Judas had left, Jesus said:

“Now is the Chosen One glorified
and God is glorified as well.

If God has been glorified,
God will in turn glorify the Chosen One
and will do so very soon.

My little children,
I will not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:
Love one another.

And you are to love each other
the way I have loved you.

This is how all will know that you are my disciples:
that you truly love one another.”

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then some Jewish Christians came down to Antioch and began to teach the believers, “Unless you follow exactly the traditions of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed with them and hotly debated their position. Finally, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some others should go up to see the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this question.

The apostles and the elders decided, in agreement with the whole Jerusalem church, to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading members of the community. They were to deliver this letter:

“From the apostles and elders, to our Gentile sisters and brothers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: “Greetings! We hear that some of our

number, without any instructions from us, have upset you with their discussions and disturbed your peace of mind.

Therefore, we have unanimously resolved to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have risked their lives for the name of Jesus Christ.

So we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will convey this message by word of mouth: it is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and ours as well, not to lay on you any burden beyond that which is strictly necessary — namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from meat of un-bleed or strangled animals and from fornication. You will be well advised to avoid these things. Farewell.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of Revelation.

The angel then carried me away in the Spirit to the top of a very high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

It shone with God’s glory and gleamed like a precious jewel, like a sparkling diamond. Its wall was huge and very tall, and it had twelve gates with twelve angels as sentinels. On the twelve gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; three of its

gates faced east, three north, three south and three west. The wall had twelve foundation stones on which were written the names of the Lamb’s twelve apostles.

I saw no Temple in the city, for God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the Temple. There was no sun or moon: God’s glory was its light, and the Lamb was its lamp.

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 God and there we will make our home together.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 14:23-29

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples:

“Those who love me will be true to my word,
and Abba God will love them;
and we will come to them
and make our dwelling place with them.

Those who do not love me,
do not keep my words.

Yet the message you hear is not mine;
it comes from Abba God who sent me.

This much have I said to you while still with you;
but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit,
whom Abba God will send in my name,
will instruct you in everything,
and she will remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give to you;
but the kind of peace I give you
is not like the world’s peace.

Do not let your hearts be distressed;
do not be fearful.

You have heard me say,
‘I am going away but I will return.’

If you really loved me,
you would rejoice because I am going to Abba God,
for Abba is greater than I.

I tell you this now, before it happens,
so that when it happens you will believe.”

*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.

Then 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 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen, meanwhile, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked to the sky and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right side of God. "Look!" he exclaimed, "I see the heavens opened, and the Chosen One standing at God's right hand."

The onlookers were standing there, shouting out and holding their hands over their ears as they did so. They rushed at him as one, and

dragged him out of the city. The witnesses then stoned him, having laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "O Jesus, receive my spirit." Then fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Please do not hold this sin against them!" And with that, he died.

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

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then John heard a voice saying, "Remember, I am coming soon! I bring with me the reward that will be given to all people according to their conduct. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Happy are they who wash their robes so as to have free access to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates. It is I, Jesus, who has sent my angel to give you this testimony about the churches. I am the Root

and Offspring of David, the Morning Star shining bright."

The Spirit and the Betrothed say, "Come!" Let the one who hears it answer, "Come!"

Let the thirsty come forward. Let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water.

The One who gives this testimony says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Jesus!

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

Gospel Reading: John 17:20-26

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said:
I do not pray for them alone.
I pray also for those
 who will believe in me through their message,
 that all may be one,
 as you, Abba, are in me and I in you;
I pray that they may be one in us,
 so that the world may believe that you sent me.
I have given them the glory you gave me
 that they may be one, as we are one —
I in them, you in me —
 that they may be made perfect in unity.
Then the world will know that you sent me,
 and that you loved them as you loved me.
Abba, I ask that those you gave me
 may be here with me,
 so they can see this glory of mine
 which 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 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!

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 YHWH 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 God, 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 One.” 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 YHWH 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 firstfruits 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 as she enabled them.

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 are a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. There are 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!

TRINITY SUNDAY

First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Wisdom says this:

“YHWH gave birth to me at the beginning,
before the first acts of creation.

I have been from everlasting,
in the beginning, before the world began.

Before the deep seas, I was brought forth,
before there were fountains or springs of water;
before the mountains erupted up into place,
before the hills, I was born —
before YHWH created the earth or its fields,
or even the first clods of dirt.

I was there when the Almighty created the heavens,
and set the horizon just above the ocean,
set the clouds in the sky,
and established the springs of the deep,
gave the seas their boundaries
and set their limits at the shoreline.

When the foundation of the earth was laid out,
I was the skilled artisan standing next to the Almighty.

I was YHWH's delight day after day,
rejoicing at being in YHWH's presence continually,
rejoicing in the whole world
and delighting in humankind.

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

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended.

But not only that — we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and character, hope. And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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

TRINITY SUNDAY — continued

ALLELUIA!

*When I behold your heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and stars which you set in place —
who are we that you should be mindful of us!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 16:12-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples,
I have much more to tell you,
but you cannot bear to hear it now.
When the Spirit of truth comes,
Spirit will guide you into all truth.
She will not speak on her own initiative,
rather, she will speak only what she hears,
and she will announce to you
things that are yet to come.
In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me,
for she will take what is mine
and reveal it to you.
Everything that Abba God has
belongs to me.
This is why I said that
the Spirit will take what is mine
and reveal it to you.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. *Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

First Reading: Genesis 14:18-20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The ruler of Salem, Melchizedek, who was a priest of the Most High God, brought out bread and wine and blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by the Most High God,
Creator of Heaven and Earth!
And blessed be the Most High God,
who delivered your oppressors into your hands.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul 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 saying, “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!

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI — continued

ALLELUIA!

*I am the living bread from heaven, says the Savior;
Those who eat this bread will live forever!*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:11-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus welcomed the crowd and spoke to them about the reign of God, and healed all who were in need of healing.

As sunset approached, the Twelve came and said to Jesus, “Dismiss the crowd, so they can go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and food, for this is a remote and isolated area.”

Jesus answered them, “Give them something to eat yourselves!” The disciples replied, “We have nothing but five loaves and two fish. Or do you want us to go and buy food

for all these people?” There were about five thousand gathered.

Jesus said to the disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of fifty or so.” They did so and got them all seated. Then, taking the five loaves and two fishes, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven, said a blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples for distribution to the crowd.

They all ate until they were satisfied and, when the leftovers were collected, there were twelve baskets full.

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For Zion's sake I will not be silent;
for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest —
not until her integrity shines like the dawn,
her deliverance like a flaming torch.
Then nations will see your vindication,
and the rulers your splendor,
you will have a new name
that YHWH's mouth will bestow.
You will be a garland of beauty in YHWH's hands,
a solemn crown worn by YHWH.
Never again will you be called Forsaken.
Never again will your land be called Desolate.
But you will be called My Delight Is In Her,
and your land will be called Married.
For YHWH will take delight in you
and your land will be joined with YHWH in wedlock.
For just as the young couple marry,
you will be forever married to this land.
As the newly married couple rejoice over each other,
so will YHWH rejoice over you.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

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

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

To one, the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another, the word of knowledge through the

same Spirit. Through the Spirit, one person receives faith; through the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing; and still another, miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another, power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues; another, that of interpreting tongues.

But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts and distributes them at will.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there. Jesus and his disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration.

At a certain point, the wine ran out, and Jesus' mother told him, "They have no wine."

Jesus replied, "Mother, what does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

She instructed those waiting on tables, "Do whatever he tells you."

As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings, there were six stone water jars on hand, each one holding between fifteen and twenty-five gallons. "Fill those jars with water," Jesus said, and the servers filled them to the brim.

"Now," said Jesus, "draw some out and take it to the caterer." They did as they were instructed.

The caterer tasted the water — which had become wine — without knowing where it had come from; the only ones who knew were those who were waiting on tables because they had drawn the water. The caterer called the bride and groom over and remarked, "People usually serve the best wine first; then, when the guests have been drinking awhile, a lesser vintage is served. What you have done is keep the choice wine until now!"

Jesus performed this first of his signs at Cana in Galilee; in this way he revealed his glory, and the disciples believed in him.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Nehemiah.

On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the scribe brought out the Book of the Law before the assembled people, women and men, and children old enough to understand the reading. Ezra read the book aloud from early morning until noon while facing the broad expanse before the Water Gate, in the presence of the women and men and children. All listened attentively to the book of the Law. Ezra stood on a wooden platform made for the purpose. He opened the book in the presence of all the people. When he opened the book all stood up.

When Ezra blessed YHWH, the great God, all the people raised their hands with the response, "Amen, Amen"; then they bowed their heads and worshipped YHWH lying face down on the ground. Ezra read plainly

from the book of the Law of YHWH, and the Levites interpreted it and gave it meaning so that the people understood it.

Then Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe, along with the Levites, instructed the people, saying to all of them, "This day is holy to the Most High, YHWH. Do not mourn. Do not weep" — for the people all had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah continued, "Go now and enjoy rich food and sweet wine, and be certain that you send a share to those who cannot provide for themselves, for this day is holy to YHWH. Let no one be sad, for YHWH's joy is your strength.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

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

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. And that Body is not one part; it is many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” does that make it any less a part of the body? If the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” would that make it any less a part of the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all the different parts into one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

They are, indeed, many different members, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” any more than the head can say to the feet, “I do not need you.” And even those members of the

body that seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety that the more presentable do not need. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share the joy. If one member is honored, all the members share the joy.

You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, or do all have the gift of interpretation of tongues?

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Many others have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, exactly as those happenings were passed on to us by the original eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word. I too have investigated everything carefully from the beginning and have decided to set it down in writing for you, noble Theophilus, so that you may see how reliable the instruction was that you received.

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise.

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to

do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Jesus, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“The spirit of Our God is upon me; because the Most High has anointed me to bring Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, and release to those in prison — to proclaim the year of Our God’s favor.”

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the assistant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, “Today, in your hearing, this Scripture passage is fulfilled.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Now the word of YHWH came to me and said:

“Before I formed you in the womb I chose you.

Before you were born, I dedicated you.

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

So now, Jeremiah, brace yourself for action.

Stand up and tell them all I command you.

Do not break down in their presence,

lest in their presence I break you down.

Look — today I make you a fortified city,

a pillar of iron and a wall of bronze,

so you may confront this whole land:

the royalty of Judah and the officials,

its priests and its people.

They will assault you

but will never conquer you,

for I am with you to deliver you —

it is YHWH who speaks.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31 -13:13

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

Set your hearts on the greater gifts. But now I will show you the way that surpasses all the others.

If I speak can speak in the tongues of earth — and those of the angels too — but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is

wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, and knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known.

There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:21-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to them, “Today, in your hearing, this Scripture passage is fulfilled.”

All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the eloquence of the words on Jesus’ lips. They said, “Surely this is not Mary and Joseph’s son?”

Jesus said to them, “Undoubtedly you will quote me the proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself,’ and say ‘Do here in your own country the things we have heard you did in Capernaum.’ But the truth is, prophets never gain acceptance in their hometowns.

The truth is, there were many women who were widowed in Israel in the days of Elijah,

when the heavens remained closed for three and a half years and a great famine spread over the land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but to a woman who had been widowed in Zarephath, near Sidon. Recall, too, that many had leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one was cured except Naaman the Syrian.”

At these words, the whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation. They rose up and dragged Jesus out of town, leading him to the brow of the hill on which it was built, with the intention of hurling him over the edge. But he moved straight through the crowd and walked away.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the book of Isaiah

In the year of the death of Uzziah, ruler of Judah, I saw YHWH seated on a high and lofty judgment seat, in a robe whose train filled the Temple. Seraphs were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

They would cry out to one another, "Holy! Holy! Holy is YHWH Omnipotent! All the earth is filled with YHWH's glory." The doorposts and thresholds quaked at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple kept filling with smoke.

Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! I have unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips! And my eyes have seen the Ruler, YHWH Omnipotent."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding an ember, which it had taken with tongs from the fire. The seraph touched my mouth with the ember. "See," it said, "now that this has touched your lips, your corruption is removed, and your sin pardoned."

Then I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said, "send me!"

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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

Sisters and brothers, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received and in which you stand firm. You are being saved by it at this very moment, if you hold fast to it as I preached it to you. Otherwise you have believed in vain.

I handed on to you, first of all, what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried and, in accordance with the scriptures, rose on the third day; that he was seen by Peter, then by the Twelve. After that, more than five hundred sisters and brothers, most of whom are

still alive, although some have fallen asleep, saw him at once. Next he was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Last of all he was seen by me, as one yanked from the womb.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, because I persecuted the church of God, I do not even deserve the name. But by God's favor I am what I am. This favor that God has given to me has not proved fruitless. Indeed, I have worked harder than all the others, not on my own but through the grace of God. In any case, whether it be I or they, this is what we preach and this is what you believed.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

One day Jesus was standing by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored by the side of the lake; the fishers had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then, remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Rabbi, we have been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets."

Upon doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until they both nearly sank.

After Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down before Jesus, saying, "Leave me, Rabbi, for I am a sinner." For Simon and his shipmates were astonished at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will fish among humankind." And when they brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

“Cursed are those who trust in human ways,” says YHWH,
“who rely on things of the flesh,
whose hearts turn away from YHWH.
They are like stunted vegetation in the desert
with no hope in the future.
It stands in stony wastes in the desert,
an uninhabited land of salt.
Blessed are those who put their trust in YHWH,
with YHWH for their hope.
They are like a tree planted by the river
that thrusts its roots toward the stream.
When the heat comes it feels no heat,
its leaves stay green.
It is untroubled in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.
The human heart is more deceitful than
anything else,
and desperately sick — who can understand it?
I, YHWH, search into the heart,
I probe the mind,
to give to all people
what their actions and conduct deserve.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

Tell me, if we proclaim that Christ was raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? Because if the dead are not raised, then Christ is not raised, and if Christ is not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the

deadeast of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of the human race.

But as it is, Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
for the reign of God is yours.
You who hunger now are blessed;
for you will be filled.
You who weep now are blessed,
for you will laugh.
You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.
On the day they do so,
rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.
But woe to you rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.
Woe to you who are full;
for you will go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now;
for you will weep in your grief.
Woe to you when all speak well of you;
for their ancestors treated the false prophets
in just this way.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. *Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Saul journeyed down to the desert of Ziph with an army of 3,000 Israelite troops chosen to search out David.

Abishai and David entered the camp after dark and found Saul asleep within the lines with his spear thrust into the ground near his head. Abner and the army slept all around him. Abishai whispered to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hands today. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear. I will not even need a second thrust!"

But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm Saul, for who can lay hands on YHWH's anointed

one and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug sitting just near to Saul's head; they were able to get away without anyone being seen, or known or awakened.

David crossed over to the opposite slope and stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner ben-Ner and the troops. He called out: "Here is the ruler's spear. Let one of your attendants come to get it. YHWH rewards all people for their righteousness and faithfulness. YHWH gave you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on YHWH's anointed."

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:44-49

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

A natural body is sown, and a spiritual body is raised up. If there is a natural body, then there is also a spiritual body.

The first Adam, as Scripture says, "became a living soul," but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, the natural comes first, not the spiritual; after that

comes the spiritual. The first, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second is from heaven. As this earthly one was, so are we of the earth; and as the One from heaven is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modeled on the earthly, likewise will be modeled on the One from heaven.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said, “To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, do not demand it back.

“Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do to you? Even ‘sinners’ do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do to you?

Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners’, expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You will rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

“Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure — packed down, shaken together and running over — will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Sift the grain and the husks come up;
so do the faults of people when they speak up.
Just as the potter's work is tested in the kiln,
so too are we tested when we open our mouths.
Trees in the orchard are judged by the quality of their fruit;
our character is tested by the quality of our words.
Do not praise anyone before you hear them in a discussion,
for this is the test of character.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

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.

Be steadfast and persevering, my beloved sisters and brothers, fully engaged in the work of Jesus. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in Christ.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told the disciples a parable: “Can a blind person act as guide to another who is blind? Will they not both fall into a ditch?”

“The student is not above the teacher. But all students will, once they are fully trained, be on a par with the teacher.

“How can you look at the splinter in another’s eye when you miss the plank in your own? How can you say to another, ‘Let me remove the splinter from your eye,’ yet fail yourself to see the board lodged in your own?”

Hypocrite, remove the board from your own eye first; then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from the eye of another.

“A good tree does not produce bad fruit any more than a bad tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield. Figs are not taken from thorn bushes, or grapes picked from briars. Good people produce goodness from the good they have stored up their hearts; evil people produce evil from the evil stored up in their hearts. People speak from the fullness of their hearts.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: 1 Kings 8:41-43

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Solomon said: “And the foreigners as well, those who do not belong to your people Israel, if they come from a distant country for the sake of your Name — for they will hear of your Name, of your mighty hand and outstretched arm — if they come and worship in this Temple, then hear from

heaven where your home is, and do whatever the foreigners ask of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your Name and revere you, as do your people Israel, and may know that this house I built bears your Name.”

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

Second Reading: Galatians 1:1-2, 6-10

The beginning of the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

From Paul, appointed to be an apostle, not through human agency but through Jesus Christ, and through Abba God, who raised Jesus from the dead — and from all the sisters and brothers who are here with us,

To the churches of Galatia: I am astonished that you have so soon turned away from the One who called you by the grace of Christ, and have turned to a different gospel — one that is really not “good news” at all. Some who wish to alter the Good News of Christ must have confused you.

For if we — or even angels from heaven — should preach to you a gospel, one not in accord with the gospel we delivered to you, let us — or them — be cursed! We have said it before and I will say it again: if any preach a gospel to you that is contrary to the one you received, let them be cursed!

Who am I trying to please now — people or God? Is it human approval I am seeking? If I still wanted that, I would not be what I am — a servant of Christ.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

After having finished the discourse in the hearing of the people, Jesus entered Capernaum. A centurion had a favorite attendant who was, at that moment, sick to the point of death. Hearing about Jesus, the centurion sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and save the attendant's life. The elders approached Jesus and petitioned earnestly. "This centurion deserves this favor from you," they said; "he loves our nation and was the one who built our synagogue."

Jesus set out with them. When he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent out friends to convey this message:

"Rabbi, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter my house. That is why I did not presume to come to you myself. Just give the order and my attendant will be cured. I, too, know the meaning of an order, having soldiers under my command. I give orders, and they obey."

On hearing this, Jesus was amazed, and turned to the crowd that was following and said, "I tell you, I have never found this much faith among the Israelites."

When the messengers returned to the house, they found the attendant in perfect health.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:17-24

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The child of the widow in whose home Elijah was staying became ill. The child grew worse and finally stopped breathing. The widow said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of YHWH? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my child?" "Give me your child," Elija said.

He took the child from her arms and carried it to the upper room where he was staying, and laid it on the bed. Then he cried out to YHWH: "YHWH, why did you bring such a calamity even upon this widow I am staying with, by causing the child to die?"

Then he stretched out over the child three times and called out to YHWH, "I pray, YHWH my God, let the breath of life return to the body of this child." YHWH listened to Elijah's plea, and the breath of life returned to the child's body, and it revived.

Elijah lifted up the child and took it down to its mother, saying, "See, your child lives."

The widow said to Elijah, "Now I know for certain that you are a man of YHWH and that the word of YHWH is truly on your lips."

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

Second Reading: Galatians 1:11-19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

I assure you, my sisters and brothers: the Gospel I proclaim to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any person, nor was I schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ.

You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I went far beyond most of my contemporaries regarding Jewish observances because of my great zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.

But the time came when God, who had set me apart before I was born, called me by divine grace, choosing to reveal God's Own through me, that I might spread Christ among the Gentiles. Immediately, without seeking human advisors or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia; later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that, I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostle except James, the brother of Jesus.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and the disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As Jesus approached the gate of the town, a dead body was being carried out — the only son of a widowed mother. A considerable crowd of townspeople was with her.

Jesus was moved with pity upon seeing her and said to her, “Do not cry.” Then Jesus stepped forward and touched the coffin; at

this the bearers halted. Jesus said, “Young man, I tell you, get up.”

The dead youth sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Fear seized them all and they began to praise God. “A great prophet has risen among us,” they said, and, “God has truly visited us.” This was the report that spread about Jesus throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Then Nathan said to David: “You are that corrupt person! This is what YHWH of Israel says: ‘I anointed you ruler over Israel. And I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your palace, along with your many wives in your arms. I gave you the tribes of Israel and Judah. And if this had been too little, I would have added other favors as well. Why did you despise the word of YHWH by doing what you did, which is evil in YHWH’s eyes? You struck down Uriah

the Hittite with the sword and took his wife as your own. You murdered Uriah with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never be far from your house; for you showed contempt of me and took Bathsheba to be your own.’ ”

Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against YHWH.”

Nathan replied, “YHWH forgives your sin and you will not die.”

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

Second Reading: Galatians 2:16, 19-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

We know that people are not justified by following the Law, but by believing in Jesus Christ. That is why we too have believed in Christ — so that we can be justified by faith in Christ, not by obeying the Law. No one will be justified by keeping the Law.

It was through the Law that I died to the Law, to live for God. I have been crucified

with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. I still live my own life, but it is a life of faith in Jesus our Savior, who loves me and gave himself for me. I will not nullify God’s grace — for if justification is available through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:36-50

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner. Jesus went to his house and reclined at table. A woman who had a low reputation in the town came to the house. She had learned that Jesus was dining with the Pharisee, so she brought with her an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. She stood behind Jesus, crying, and her tears fell on his feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the oil.

When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, “If this fellow were the Prophet, he would know who this woman is that is touching him, and what a low reputation she has.”

In answer to the Pharisee’s thoughts Jesus said, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Tell me, Teacher,” he said.

“Two people owed money to a creditor. One owed the creditor the equivalent of two years’ wages; the other, two months’ wages. Both were unable to pay, so the creditor wrote off both debts. Which of them was more grateful to the money-lender?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one who owed more.”

Jesus said, “You are right.”

Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “See this woman? I came into your house and you gave me no water to wash my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss of greeting, but she covered my feet with kisses. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with oil. For this reason, I tell you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven — see how much she loves! But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Those also sitting at the table began to ask among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

Meanwhile Jesus said to her, “Your faith has saved you, go in peace.”

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

First Reading: Zechariah 12:10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

But I will pour a spirit of pity and compassion on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then they will look on me, the one they pierced, they will mourn for the pierced one, as one mourns

for an only child, and weeps bitterly for it, as one mourns over a firstborn. On that day the mourning of Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

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

Second Reading: Galatians 3:26-29

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or

female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ you are the offspring of Sarah and Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:18-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

One day when Jesus was praying in seclusion and the disciples were with him, he put the question to them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

“John, the Baptizer,” they replied, “and some say Elijah, while others claim that one of the prophets of old has returned from the dead.”

“But you — who do you say that I am?” Jesus asked them.

Peter replied, “God’s Messiah.”

Jesus strictly forbade them to tell this to anyone.

“The Chosen One,” Jesus said, “must suffer grievously, be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the religious scholars, be put to death and then be raised up on the third day.”

Then Jesus said to all of them, “You who wish to be my followers must deny your very self, take up your cross — the instrument of your own death — every day, and follow in my steps. If you would save your life, you will lose it; and if you would 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: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

A reading from the first book of Kings.

YHWH told Elijah: “Also anoint Jehu ben-Nimshi, as ruler of Israel, and anoint Elisha ben-Shaphat, from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet.”

So Elijah went from Horeb and found Elisha ben-Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha immediately left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

“Let me kiss my parents good-bye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.”

“Go back!” Elijah answered. “What have I done to you?”

So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and become his servant.

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

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When Christ freed us, we were meant to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit to the yoke of slavery a second time! My sisters and brothers, you were called to freedom; but be careful, or this freedom will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Rather, serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you go snapping at one another and tearing

each other to pieces, be careful, or you may end up destroying the whole community.

Let me put it this way: if the Spirit guides you, you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence. Since our ego is at odds with the Spirit — and the Spirit with our flesh — the two are so opposed that you cannot do whatever you feel like doing. If the Spirit guides you, you are not under the Law.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:51-62

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

As the time approached when he was to be taken from this world, Jesus firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem and sent messengers on ahead. They entered a Samaritan town to make preparations for him, but the Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because his destination was Jerusalem.

When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Rabbi, do you want us call down fire from heaven and destroy them?” But Jesus turned and reprimanded them. Then they set off for another town.

As they were making their way along, they met a fellow traveler who said to Jesus, “I will be your follower wherever you go.”

Jesus replied, “Foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the Chosen One has nowhere to rest.”

To another Jesus said, “Follow me.”

The traveler replied, “Let me bury my father first.”

Jesus said in return, “Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere.”

Yet another traveler approached Jesus in this way, “I will be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home.”

Jesus answered, “Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her,
all you who love her;
exult, exult with her,
all you who were mourning over her!
Oh, that you may suck fully
of the milk of her comfort,
that you may nurse with delight
at her abundant breasts!
For thus says YHWH:
I will spread peace over her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.
As nurslings, you will be carried in her arms,
and fondled in her lap;
as a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
in Jerusalem you will find your comfort.
When you see this, your heart will rejoice,
and your bodies will flourish like the grass;
YHWH's faithful ones
will see the power of YHWH,
but YHWH's enemies
will know heaven's wrath.

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

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Savior Jesus Christ! Through it the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one bothers with the externals of religion or not. All that matters is that one is created anew.

Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me, for my body bears the marks of Jesus.

Sisters and brothers, may the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs in advance to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is rich, but the workers are few; therefore, ask the overseer to send workers to the harvest.

Be on your way, and remember: I am sending you as lambs in the midst of wolves. Do not carry a walking stick or knapsack; wear no sandals and greet no one along the way. And whatever house you enter, first say ‘Peace be upon this house!’ If the people live peaceably there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you, for the laborer is worth a wage. Do not keep moving from house to house.

“And whatever city you enter, after they welcome you, eat what they set before you and heal those who are sick in that town.

Say to them, ‘The reign of God has drawn near to you.’ If the people of any town you enter do not welcome you, go into its streets and say, ‘We shake the dust of this town from our feet as testimony against you. But know that the reign of God has drawn near.’ I tell you, on that day the fate of Sodom will be less severe than that of such a town.”

The seventy-two disciples returned with joy, saying, “Rabbi, even the demons obey us in your name!”

Jesus replied: “I watched Satan fall from the sky like lightning. Look: I have given you power to tread on snakes and scorpions — even all the forces of the enemy — and nothing will ever injure you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in the fact that the spirits obey you so much as that your names are inscribed in heaven.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the Israelites: “Obey YHWH, your God, and keep the commandments and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law, and return to the Most High with all your heart and soul.

“For this Law that I give to you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you need to ask yourself, ‘Who will go up

to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?’ Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, ‘Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?’ No, the word of YHWH is very near to you; it is in your mouth, and in your heart, so that you can keep it.”

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

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the unseen God
and the firstborn of all creation,
for in Christ were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers —
all things were created through Christ and for Christ.
Before anything was created, Christ existed,
and all things hold together in Christ.
The Church is the body;
Christ is its head.
Christ is the Beginning
the firstborn from the dead,
and so Christ is first in every way.
God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ,
and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ —
everything in heaven and everything on earth —
when Christ made peace
by dying on the cross.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?”

Jesus answered, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

The expert on the Law replied:

“You will love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: “And just who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied: “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the

road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

“But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: ‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I will repay you on the way back.’

“Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?”

The answer came, “The one who showed compassion.”

Jesus replied, “Then go and do the same.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH appeared to Abraham by the oak grove of Mamre, while Abraham sat at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Looking up, Abraham saw three travelers standing nearby.

When he saw them, Abraham ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, said: “If I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by our tent. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves beneath this tree. As you have come to your faithful one, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves. Afterward you may go on your way.”

“Very well,” they replied, “do as you have said.”

Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick — take a bushel of fine flour and knead it into loaves of bread.” Abraham then ran to the herd, selected a choice and tender calf, and sent a worker hurrying to prepare it. Then Abraham took cheese and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and placed it before the travelers; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

“Where is Sarah?” they asked.

“There in the tent,” Abraham replied.

One of them said, “I will surely return to you this time next year, and Sarah will then have a child.”

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

Second Reading: Colossians 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own body I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Jesus, for the sake of Christ’s body, the church. I became a minister of this church through the commission God gave me, to preach among you the word in its fullness — that mystery hidden from ages and generations past, but

now revealed to God’s holy ones. God’s will was to make known to them the priceless glory that this mystery brings to the nations — the mystery of Christ in you, your hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim while we admonish everyone and teach them in the full measure of wisdom, hoping to make everyone complete in our Savior.

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

ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, do you not care that my sister has left me all

alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You are anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary — really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she will not be deprived of it."

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

So YHWH said to Abraham, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is terrible, and their sin is so grave that I must go down and see for myself. If they have done what her cry against them accuse them of, I will destroy them. If not, I need to know that, too.”

While the travelers walked along toward Sodom, Abraham remained in YHWH’s presence. Then Abraham drew closer and said, “Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty! Should the innocent and the guilty be treated the same way? Heaven forbid it! Should the Judge of the earth not act with justice?”

YHWH replied, “If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Abraham spoke up again: “See how I presume to speak to my Sovereign, though I

am only dust and ashes! What if there are forty-five innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city for the lack of those five?”

“I will not destroy it,” YHWH answered, “if I find forty-five there.”

But Abraham persisted, and said, “What if only forty are found there?”

YHWH replied, “For the sake of the forty, I will not destroy it.”

Then Abraham said, “Let not my Sovereign grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?”

YHWH replied, “For the sake of the thirty, I will not destroy it.”

Still Abraham went on, “Since I have thus dared to speak to my Sovereign, what if there are no more than twenty?”

“For the sake of the twenty, I will not destroy it,” YHWH answered.

Abraham persisted: “Please, do not be angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are only ten there?”

“For the sake of the ten,” YHWH replied, “I will not destroy it.”

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

Second Reading: Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

In baptism you were not only buried with Christ but also raised to life, because you believed in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. And though you were dead in sin and did not have the Covenant, God gave

you new life in company with Christ, pardoning all our sins. God has canceled the massive debt that stood against us with all its hostile claims, taking it out of the way and nailing it to the cross.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say,
‘Abba God, hallowed be your Name!
May your reign come.
Give us today
Our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we too forgive everyone
who sins against us;
and do not let us be subjected
to the Test.’”

Jesus said to them: “Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, ‘Lend me three loaves, because friends of mine on a

journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.’

“Then your neighbor says, ‘Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to look after your needs.’ I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need.

“That is why I tell you, keep asking and you will receive; keep looking and you will find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parent among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

“Completely illusory!” says Qoheleth.

“Complete illusory! Everything is just an illusion!” For I, a person who has worked wisely, skillfully, and successfully, must leave it to someone who has not so much as lifted a finger — more illusion, another

miscarriage of justice. What do I gain for all my sweat and struggle under the sun? What about the daily struggles, the strain of official duties, the anxiety in the dead of night? This too is illusory.

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

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

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.

So put to death everything in you that belongs to your old nature: promiscuity,

impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as idolatry.

What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new self, one that grows in knowledge as it is formed anew in the image of its Creator. And in that image, there is no Greek or Hebrew; no Jew or Gentile; no barbarian or Scythian; no slave or citizen. There is only Christ, who is all in all.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life is not made more secure by what you own — even when you have more than you need.”

Jesus then told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

“‘What will I do?’ the farmer mused. ‘I have no place to store my harvest. I

know! I will pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. Then I will say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!’

“But God said to the farmer, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?’

“This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich in God.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Our ancestors were warned in advance
about the things that would happen that night,
and so warned, they were given the courage
to trust your promises.

Your people awaited the salvation of the just
and the destruction of their enemies;
for you used the same means to pull down our oppressors
as you used to lift us up when we heard your call.

The holy children of an upright people
offered you sacrifices behind closed doors,
conspiring among each other to keep the Law of YHWH,
sharing together in both the benefits and the dangers —
then singing ancestral songs of praise in the night.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, God approved our ancestors.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise — for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as

numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore.

All of them died in faith. They did not obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on the earth, they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come, they would have been able to return to it. But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God is not ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That is why God has prepared a city for them.

By faith, Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. Abraham, who had received the promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac will your descendants be called.” He reasoned that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead, and so he received Isaac back as a symbol.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples: “Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba to give you the kingdom.

“Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out — treasures that will not fail you, in heaven, that thieves cannot steal and moths cannot destroy. For wherever your treasure is, that is where your heart will be.

“Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. Be like the household staff awaiting the owner’s return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you will open the door without delay. It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.

“Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on guard — the Promised

One will come when least expected.” Peter said, “Do you intend this parable just for us, Teacher, or do you mean it for everyone?”

Jesus said, “It is the faithful and farsighted steward that the owner leaves to supervise the staff and give them their rations at the proper time. Happy the steward whom the owner, upon returning, finds busy! The truth is, the owner will put the steward in charge of the entire estate! But let us say the steward thinks, ‘The owner is slow in returning’ and begins to abuse the other staff members, eating and drinking and getting drunk. When the owner returns unexpectedly, the steward will be punished severely and ranked among those undeserving of trust.

“The staff members who knew the owner’s wishes but did not work to fulfill them will get a severe punishment, whereas the one who did not know them — even though deserving of a severe punishment — will get off with a milder correction. From those who have been given much, much will be required; from those who have been entrusted much, much more will be asked.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

ASSUMPTION OF MARY: MASS DURING THE DAY

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 God 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 God on their shoulders with poles, as Moses had ordered in accordance with God'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 God in and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. When David had finished presenting the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of God.

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.

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 — continued

First Reading: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6,10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, had this vision: God's Temple in heaven opened and in the Temple could be seen the Ark of the Covenant. There were flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a violent hailstorm.

A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant, and she cried out in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns;

on its heads were seven crowns. Its tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, ready to devour her child when it should be born. She gave birth to a child — destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to God's throne. The woman herself fled into the desert, where a special place had been prepared for her by God; there she was taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say,
Now have salvation and power come,
the reign of Our God
and the authority of God's Messiah.
For the accuser of our sisters and brothers is cast out,
who night and day accused them before Our God.

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 firstfruits 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 humans all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the

firstfruits, 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.

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!*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The officials said to the ruler, “The prophet must be put to death. His words are demoralizing the soldiers left in the city, as well as the populace. He is seeking not what is best for them, but what is worst.”

“Do as you wish,” Zedekiah answered, “I cannot do anything to stop you.”

So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern in the courtyard of the guard, letting him down with ropes. The cistern held no water, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

But when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch in the ruler’s house, learned that Jeremiah had been imprisoned in the cistern, he went to the ruler, who was sitting at the Benjamin Gate. “Your Majesty,” he said, “these officials are acting viciously in their treatment of Jeremiah. They threw him into a cistern where he will starve to death, for there is no more bread in the city.”

The ruler instructed Ebed-melech the Ethiopian to take thirty attendants and pull him out of the cistern before he died.

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Therefore, since such a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.

For the sake of the joy to come, Jesus endured the cross, heedless of its shame, and now sits at the right of God’s throne. Think of Jesus — who endured such opposition from sinners — so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggles against sin, you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples: “I have come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think I am here to bring peace on earth? I tell you, the opposite is true: I have come to

bring division. From now on a household of five will be divided — three against two and two against three, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They will come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, and Lud — famous as archers — Tubal, and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. And they will declare my glory among the nations. As an offering to YHWH, they will

bring all of your sisters and brothers on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and camels, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem,” says YHWH, “like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the YHWH. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites,” says YHWH.

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Moreover, you have forgotten the encouraging words addressed to you as daughters and sons,

“My children, when YHWH corrects you, do not treat it lightly; and do not get discouraged when you are reprimanded. For YHWH disciplines the ones YHWH loves and punishes all whom YHWH acknowledges as daughters and sons.”

At the time it is administered, any discipline seems a cause for grief, not joy, but later it bears fruit in peace and justice for those formed by it. So hold up your drooping hands and steady your trembling knees. Make straight the path you tread, that your halting limbs will not be dislocated, but healed.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:22-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus went through cities and towns teaching, all the while making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked, “Will only a few people be saved?”

Jesus replied: “Try to come in through the narrow door. Many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not succeed. Once the head of the household gets up and locks the door, you may find yourselves standing outside, knocking and saying, ‘Please open the door! It is us!’ but the answer will come, ‘I do not know you or where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘But we ate and drank in your company. You taught in our streets.’

But you will be told, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Get away from me, you evildoers!’

“There will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah and Rachel and Jacob and all the prophets, safe in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves rejected. People will come from the East and the West, from the North and the South, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

A reading from the book of Sirach.

My children, be gentle in all that you do,
and you will be loved by the blessed.
The bigger you become, the more you should humble yourself,
and you will find favor with YHWH.
Do not pry into things beyond your circumstances,
or delve into what is beyond your limits.
The wise take proverbs to heart;
every sage is a good listener.
As water douses flames,
so charitable giving atones for sins.

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm, or trumpeting thunder, or the great voice speaking such that those hearing it begged that no more be said to them.

What you have drawn near to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, where myriad angels have gathered for the festival with the

whole church — in which everyone is a “firstborn” and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God, the supreme Judge, and have been placed with the spirits of the holy ones who have been made perfect. You have come to Jesus — the mediator who brings a new Covenant — and to the sprinkled blood that pleads even more insistently than that of Abel.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

One Sabbath, when Jesus came to eat a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees, the guests watched him closely.

Jesus addressed a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

“When you are invited to a wedding party, do not sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. What you should do go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they

will say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, do not invite your friends or colleagues or relatives, or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities, or are blind. You should be pleased that they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

For how can any mortal know the mind of YHWH?
Who can discern the will of the Holy One?
Mortal reasoning is faulty
and our plans shaky,
because a corruptible body weighs down our soul,
and our frame of clay weighs heavy
on a mind already so filled with cares.
Our best guesses about the things of this earth
are only approximate,
and we toil to discover
even those things that are within our grasp.
But who has ever mapped out the ways of heaven?
Who has ever discerned your intentions
unless you have given them Wisdom,
and sent your Holy Spirit from heaven on high?
It was because of Wisdom
that we on earth were set on the right path,
that we mortals were taught what pleases you
and were kept safe under Wisdom's protection.

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

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I prefer to appeal in the name of love. Yes, I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner for Christ, appeal to you for my child, of whom I have become the parent during my imprisonment. It is he that I am sending to you — and that means I am sending my heart

I had wanted to keep him with me, that he might serve me in your place while I am in prison for the Good News; but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that

kindness might not be forced on you, but be freely bestowed. Perhaps he was separated from you for a while for this reason — that you might have him back forever, no longer as a subordinate, but as more — a beloved brother, especially dear to me. And how much dearer he will be to you, since now you will know him both in the flesh and in Christ.

If you regard me as a partner, then, welcome Onesimus as you would me.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Large crowds followed Jesus. He turned to them and said, “If any of you come to me without turning your back on your mother and your father, your loved ones, your sisters and brothers, indeed your very self, you cannot be my follower. Anyone who does not take up the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

“If one of you were going to build a tower, would you not first sit down and calculate the outlay to see if you have enough money to complete the project? You would do that for fear of laying the foundation and then not being able to complete the work —

because anyone who saw it would jeer at you and say, ‘You started building and could not finish it.’ Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war on another country, would they not first sit down and consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they can withstand an enemy coming against them with twenty thousand? If they could not, they would send a delegation while the enemy is still at a distance, asking for terms of peace.

“So count the cost. You cannot be my disciple if you do not say goodbye to all of your possessions.”

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

YHWH said to Moses, “Go down, now! These people whom you led out of Egypt have corrupted themselves! In such a short time, they have turned from the way that I have given them, and made themselves a molten calf. Then they worshipped it and sacrificed to it and saying, ‘Israel, here is YHWH, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’ ”

YHWH then said to Moses, “I look at these people — how stubborn they are! Now leave me to myself so that my anger may pour out on them, and destroy them! But you I will make into a great nation.”

Then Moses soothed the face of YHWH, his God. “But why, YHWH, should you let your wrath pour out on these people whom you delivered from Egypt with great might, with a strong a hand? Do not forget Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your chosen ones, to whom you promised, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; I will give to you all this land that I have promised — I will give it to your descendants, and they will enjoy its inheritance forever.’ ”

So YHWH relented, and the disaster that threatened the Israelites was forestalled.

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

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I thank Christ Jesus our Savior, who has strengthened me, given me this work, and judged me faithful. I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent man; but because in my unbelief I did not know what I was doing, I have been treated mercifully, and the grace of our God has been granted to me in overflowing measure, as was the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here’s a saying that can be trusted and is worthy of your complete acceptance: “Christ

Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Of these I myself am the worst. But I was dealt with mercifully for this reason: so that in me — the worst case of all — Jesus Christ might demonstrate perfect patience; and so that I might become an example to those who would later have faith in Christ and gain everlasting life. To the Ruler of ages, the immortal, the invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it is found? And finding it, you put it the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I have found my lost sheep!’ I tell you,

in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

“What householder, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, does not light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she had lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I have found the silver piece I lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

This is the abridged version of the Gospel Reading for this Sunday.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Listen to this, you who live off of the needy
and oppress the poor people of the land,
you who say, “If only the New Moon were over
so we could sell our grain,”
and “When Sabbath is over,
we will sell our wheat
charging higher prices for smaller portions,
tilting the scales in our favor.
That way, we can buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals —
and even make a profit on the chaff of the wheat!”
YHWH swears by the Pride of Jacob,
“I will never forget a single thing you have done.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that prayers be offered for everyone — petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings — and especially for rulers and those in authority, so that we may be able to live godly and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind — Christ

Jesus, who was one of us, and who at the proper time sacrificed himself as a ransom and a testimony for all.

Because of this I have been appointed to be a preacher, an apostle, and — this is the truth, now, I am not lying — a faithful and honest teacher to the Gentiles.

Therefore, I want people everywhere to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, without anger or dissension.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples: “There was a wealthy landowner who, having received reports of a steward mismanaging the property, summoned the steward and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me an account of your service, for it is about to come to an end.’ The steward thought, ‘What will I do next? My employer is going to fire me. I cannot dig ditches. I am ashamed to go begging. I have it! Here is a way to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I am let go.’

“So the steward called in each of the landowner’s debtors. The steward said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my employer?’ The debtor replied, ‘A hundred jars of oil.’ The steward said, ‘Take your invoice, sit down quickly and make it fifty.’ Then to another the steward said, ‘How much do you owe?’ The answer came, ‘A hundred measures of wheat,’ and the steward said, ‘Take your invoice and make it eighty.’

“Upon hearing this, the owner gave this devious worker credit for being enterprising! Why? Because the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. So I tell you: make friends for yourselves through your use of this world’s goods, so that when they fail you, you will be welcomed into an eternal home.

If you can trust others in little things, you can also trust them in greater; and anyone unjust in a slight matter will also be unjust in a greater. If you cannot be trusted with filthy lucre, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s money, who will give you your own?

“Subordinates cannot have two superiors. Either they will hate the one and love the other, or be attentive to the one and despise the other. You cannot worship both God and Money.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Woe to those who live in luxury in Zion!
Lying on ivory beds and reclining on their couches,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and young calves from the stalls
They hum to the tune of the harp,
and fancy themselves musicians like David.
They drink wine straight from the bottle
and anoint themselves with the finest oils.
But they show no care for the ruin of Joseph!
So they will be the first to be exiled —
they will recline no more at festive banquets.

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

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience and gentleness. Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your noble profession of faith.

Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you to

keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears. This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and everlasting kingdom!

Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Once there was a rich individual who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. At the gate of this person’s estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person’s table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus’ sores. One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham. The rich person likewise died and was buried. In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in their company.

“‘Sarah and Abraham,’ the rich person cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ But they said, ‘My child, remember that you

were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment. But that is not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here cannot do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’

“‘The rich person said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ But Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich person said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.’ ”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

How long, YHWH, am I to cry for help
while you do not listen?
How long will I cry “Oppression!” in your ear
and you do not save?
Why do you make me look upon injustice?
Why do you countenance tyranny?
Outrage and violence — this is all I see!
All is contention, and discord flourishes.
YHWH replied, “Write down this vision,
inscribe it legibly on tablets
so that a herald can easily read it,
since this vision will stand as a witness
to the appointed time of judgment;
it gives faithful testimony
about a time that will come.
If it is slow in coming, wait for it —
for it will come, without fail.”
Look — those whose hearts are corrupt
will faint with exhaustion,
while those who steadfastly uphold justice
will live.

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

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

That is why I want to remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, of self-discipline.

So do not be ashamed to give your testimony about Christ, and do not be ashamed of me,

Christ’s prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God.

Take what you have heard me say as a model of sound teaching, in faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the rich deposit of faith with the help of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:5-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The apostles said to Jesus, “Increase our faith!”

Jesus answered, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

“If one of you had hired help plowing a field or herding sheep, and they came in from the fields, would you say to them, ‘Come and sit

at my table? Would you not say instead, ‘Prepare my supper. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward’? Would you be grateful to the workers who were just doing their job? It is the same with you who hear me. When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, ‘We are simple workers. We have done no more than our duty.’ ”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the prophet of God told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a youth.

Then Naaman and his retinue went back to the prophet of God. He stood before him, and said, “Now I know that there is no God in the whole the world except in Israel. Please accept a gift from a grateful debtor.”

The prophet answered, “As surely as YHWH lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

“If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for I will never again make offer burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but YHWH.”

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

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendent of David, was raised from the dead. This is the gospel I preach; in preaching it I suffer as a criminal — even to the point of being thrown into chains — but there is no

chaining the Word of God! Therefore I bear with all of this for the sake of those whom God has chosen, in order that they may obtain the salvation in Christ Jesus, and with it, eternal glory.

You can depend on this:

If we have died with Christ,
we will also live with Christ;
if we hold out to the end,
we will also reign with Christ.

If we deny Christ,
Christ will deny us.

If we are unfaithful,
Christ will still remain faithful,
for Christ can never be unfaithful.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

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 not all ten 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!

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Amalekites came into the area and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, “Select some of the able-bodied to go out and fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill holding the staff of YHWH.”

So Joshua did as Moses ordered and fought the Amalekites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of the hill. So long as

Moses kept his hands raised, Israel held the advantage, but whenever he lowered them, the Amalekites took the advantage. When Moses’ hands grew weary they set up a stone for him to sit on. Aaron and Hur held his hands up, one on each side, so that they remained upright until dusk. And Joshua prevailed against the Amalekites by the sword.

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

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14 — 4:2

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

You, for your part, must remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know who your teachers were. Likewise, from your infancy you have known the sacred scriptures, the source of the wisdom that through faith in Christ Jesus leads to salvation. All scripture is inspired of God, and useful for teaching — for reprimanding, correcting, and training in justice — so that the people of God may

be fully competent and equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of the appearance and reign of Christ, I charge you to preach the word; to be prepared in season and out of season; to correct, reprimand, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told the disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart: “Once there was a judge in a certain city who feared no one — not even God. A woman in that city who had been widowed kept coming to the judge and saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ For a time the judge refused, but finally the judge thought, ‘I care little for God or people, but this woman will not leave me alone. I had better give her the protection

she seeks, or she will keep coming and wear me out.’ ”

Jesus said, “Listen to what this corrupt judge is saying. Will God not then do justice to the chosen who call out day and night? Will God delay long over them? I tell you, God will give them swift justice.

“But when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

A reading from the book of Sirach.

For the Most High is a judge
 who does not respect individuals or grant favors
at the expense of the poor; YHWH listens
 to the prayers of those who are exploited.
YHWH will never ignore the pleas of the orphan
 or the widowed, as they pour out their heart.
To be accepted, you must give of yourself
 as YHWH requires —
 then your prayer will reach the clouds.
The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.
Until it is heard, there is no comfort for them;
 yet they do not give up until the YHWH answers them,
 giving the just what is theirs, and granting them justice.

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

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for me, my life is already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. Now a laurel wreath awaits me; on that day, Our God, the just Judge, will award it to me — and not only to me, but to all who have longed for Christ's appearing.

Christ stood by my side and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the nations might hear the Gospel. That is how I was saved from the lion's jaws. Christ will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm, and will bring me safe to the higher realm. To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt: “Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: ‘I give you thanks, O God, that I am not like others — greedy, crooked, adulterous — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’

“The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, where the Pharisee did not. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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.

I, John, then 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 we have put our God’s seal on the foreheads of the faithful.”

Then I heard the number of those who were 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 worshiped 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.” The elder then 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 what we

are to become in the future has not been revealed. 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.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS — continued

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!

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 11:22 — 12:1

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

With you, the entire universe is nothing more
than a grain of sand that barely tips the scales,
or a drop of dew settling on the grass in the morning.
But because you can do all things,
you are merciful to all and overlook the sins of the people
so that they may be brought to repentance.
You love everything that exists
and you do not hate anything you have created:
for what other reason would you have made everything?
How could anything remain in existence
had it not been your will?
How could anything have lasted,
unless you called it into being?
You save all things because they are yours, YHWH,
and you love all that lives,
for your imperishable breath
fills every one of them.

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

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11 — 2:2

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

Knowing all this, we pray continually that God will make you worthy of the call, fulfill all your desires for goodness, and empower all your works of faith. In this way, the name of our Savior Jesus Christ will be glorified in you, and you in Christ, by the grace of our God and of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Concerning the coming of Jesus Christ and our being gathered to meet our Savior: we beg you, sisters and brothers, do not become easily agitated or disturbed by some prophecy, report or letter falsely attributed to us, which says that the day of our Savior has come.

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

ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Entering Jericho, Jesus passed through the city. There was a wealthy person there named Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he could not do so because of the crowd, since he was short.

In order to see Jesus, Zacchaeus ran on ahead, then climbed a sycamore tree that was along the route. When Jesus came to the spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry up and come on down. I am going to stay at your house today.” Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and welcomed Jesus with delight.

When everyone saw this, they began to grumble, “Jesus has gone to a sinner’s house as a guest.”

Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to Jesus, “Here and now I give half my belongings to poor people. If I have defrauded anyone in the least, I will pay them back fourfold.”

Jesus said to the tax collector, “Today salvation has come to this house, for this is what it means to be a descendant of Sarah and Abraham. The Promised One has come to search out and save what was lost.”

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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

In another case, a mother and her seven children were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the authorities, to force them to eat pork in violation of YHWH's law.

But one, speaking for them all, said: "What do you hope to learn by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than break the laws of our ancestors."

Near death, the second one said, "Wretch! Fiend! You only free us from this life; but the Ruler of the universe will raise us to everlasting life, for we die for YHWH's laws."

As with the second, so with the third. When asked the same question, he offered his tongue and his hands, saying, "YHWH gave these to me; and I surrender to them; and from YHWH, I hope to receive them back again." Both ruler and torturers were amazed at the courage of this youth, and his utter disregard for the pain.

After the death of the third youth, they tortured the fourth in the same way. At the point of death, she said, "It is better to meet death at the hands of mortals in the hope of YHWH's promise of resurrection! But for you, there will be no resurrection."

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

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16 — 3:5

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

May our Savior Jesus Christ and our Abba God — who loved us and in mercy gave us eternal consolation and hope — console your hearts and strengthen them for every good work and word.

Finally, sisters and brothers, pray for us that the message of Christ may spread rapidly and be honored, as it was with you. Pray that we may be denied the interference of

bigoted and wicked people. Faith is not given to everyone. But Our God, who is faithful, will strengthen you and guard you from the Evil One.

We have confidence in Our God that what we taught you, you are now doing and will continue to do. May the Our God direct your hearts to the love of the Most High and the fortitude of Christ.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 20:27-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some Sadducees — the ones who claim there is no resurrection — came forward to pose this question: “Teacher, Moses wrote that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife and no child, the brother should marry the woman now widowed, to raise up children with her. Let us say there were seven brothers. The first one married and died childless. The second brother then married the woman, then the third, and so on. All seven died without leaving her any children. Finally the woman herself died. At the resurrection, who will be her husband? Remember, seven married her.”

Jesus said to them: “The children of this age marry each other, but those judged worthy of a place in the age to come and of the resurrection from the dead do not take husbands or wives. They can no longer die, like the angels — they are children of God, since they are children of the resurrection. That the dead rise again was even demonstrated by Moses when, in the passage about the bush, he called the Most High ‘the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac, and the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob.’ God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. All are alive to God.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

The Day is coming, burning like an oven,
when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble.
The Day that comes will burn them up, says YHWH Omnipotent,
and it will leave them neither root nor branch.
But for you who revere my name,
the sun will rise, a sun of justice,
with healing in its rays.

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

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

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

You know how you ought to imitate us. We did not live undisciplined lives when we were among you, nor did we depend on anyone for food. Rather, we worked night and day, laboring to the point of exhaustion so as not to impose on any of you — not that we had no claim on you, but that we might present ourselves as an example for you to imitate. Indeed, when we were with you we used to lay down

the rule that anyone who did not work did not eat.

We hear that some of you are undisciplined, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. We command all such people and urge you strongly in our Savior Jesus Christ, to earn the food you eat by working hard and keeping quiet.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:5-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some disciples were speaking of how the Temple was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings. Jesus said, “You see all these things? The day will come when one stone will not be left on another — everything will be torn down.”

They asked, “When will this happen, Rabbi? And what will be the sign that it is about to happen?”

Jesus said, “Take care not to be misled. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the one’ and ‘The time is at hand.’ Do not follow them. And do not be perturbed when you hear of wars and insurrections. These things must happen first, but the end does not follow immediately.

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and empire against empire. There will be great earthquakes, plagues and

famines in various places — and in the sky there will be frightening omens and great signs. But before any of this, they will arrest you and persecute you, bringing you before synagogues and sending you to prison, bringing you to trial before rulers and governors. And it will all be because of my name — this will be your opportunity to give your testimony. So make up your minds not to worry about your defense beforehand, for I will give you the words, and a wisdom that none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict. You will be betrayed even by your parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, yet not a hair of your head will be harmed. By patient endurance you will save your lives.”

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, “YHWH is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams of water, with springs and fountains welling up in the hills and valleys, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, of olive trees and honey, a land where you can eat food without scarcity and where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and in whose hills you can mine copper. But when you have eaten your fill, you must give thanks and praise to YHWH, for the good land that you have been given by YHWH’s hand.

“Be careful not to forget YHWH, by neglecting the commandments and decrees and statutes which I enjoin on you today; lest, when you have eaten your fill, and have built fine houses and lived in them, and have increased your herds and flocks, your silver

and gold, and all your property, you then become haughty of heart and forget YHWH, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. YHWH guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its Saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; YHWH brought forth water from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your ancestors, that YHWH might humble you and test you, but also make you prosperous in the end. Otherwise, you might say to yourselves, ‘It is my own power and the strength of my own hand that has obtained for me this wealth.’ Remember then, it is YHWH who gives us the power to acquire wealth, by fulfilling, as YHWH has now done, the covenant sworn to our ancestors.”

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY — continued

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: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

All the tribes of Israel gathered at Hebron and said to David, “We are your own flesh and blood. In the days when Saul ruled, it was you who led Israel on our military campaigns. And YHWH said to you, ‘You

will shepherd my people Israel and be our commander of Israel.’ ”

All the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, and David made a pact with them before YHWH. Then they anointed David ruler of Israel.

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

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Thanks be to God for having made you worthy to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light! God rescued us from the authority of darkness and brought us into the reign of Jesus, God’s Only Begotten. And it is through Jesus that we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

Christ is the image of the unseen God
and the firstborn of all creation,
for in Christ were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers —
all things were created through Christ and in Christ.
Before anything was created, Christ existed,
and now all things hold together in Christ.
The Church is the body;
Christ is its head.
Christ is the Beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
and so Christ is first in every way.
God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ,
and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ —
everything in heaven and everything on earth —
when Christ made peace
by dying on the cross.

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

LAST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — continued
SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

ALLELUIA!

*Blessed is the one who inherits the reign of David, our ancestor;
blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The people stood there watching The rulers, however, jeered Jesus and said, “He saved others, let him save himself — if he really is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, “If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself.” There was an inscription above Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews”.

One of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, too, saying, “Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself — and us!”

But the other one answered the first with a rebuke: “Do you not even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory.”

Jesus replied, “The truth is, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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



RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: CYCLE C

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 25

Response: To You, O God, I lift up my soul.

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.
For You I wait all the day long.

R: To You, O God, I lift up my soul.

Good and upright is Adonai, / instructing sinners in the way,
Leading the humble in what is right, / and teaching the humble the way.

R: To You, O God, I lift up my soul.

All the paths of Adonai are steadfast love and faithfulness
For those who keep God's covenant and decrees.
The friendship of Adonai is for those who fear God / and make known to them the covenant.

R: To You, O God, I lift up my soul.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 126

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: Our God has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION / DECEMBER 8 — PSALM 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.
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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Isaiah 12

Response: Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the Great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior, / I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and courage is the Most High, / Who has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water / at the fountain of salvation.

R: Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the Great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the Most High. / Acclaim God's Name;
Make God's deeds known among the nations; / proclaim how exalted is God's Name.

R: Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the Great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the Most High for all the glorious works; / 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: Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the Great and Holy One of Israel.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 80

Response: O God, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we will be safe.

Hear me, O Shepherd of Israel, / enthroned on the cherubs, shine out,
Rouse Your power, / and come to save us!

R: O God, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we will be safe.

Please, Adonai Sabaoth, relent! / Look down from heaven, look at this vine.
Visit it, / protect what Your own right hand has planted.

R: O God, make us turn to you, let us see Your face and we will be safe.

Safeguard those You have chosen, / those You have made strong.
Never again will we turn away from You; / restore us, O God.

R: O God, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we will be safe.

MIDNIGHT MASS / December 25 — Psalm 96

Response: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Sing to 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 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.

MASS AT DAWN: December 25 — 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 peoples 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 DAY / December 25 — 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 way.

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 within 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 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.

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 sins 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 — Psalm 91

Response: Be with me, O God, when I am in trouble.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High / who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
Say: "My refuge and my fortress, / my God in whom I trust."

R: Be with me, O God, when I am in trouble.

No evil will befall you, / nor will affliction come near your tent.
For to angels God had given command about you, / that they guard you in your ways.

R: Be with me, O God, when I am in trouble.

Upon their hands they will bear you up, / lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread upon the asp and the viper, / you will trample down the lion and the dragon.

R: Be with me, O God, when I am in trouble.

Because you cling to Me, I will deliver you;
I will set you on high because you acknowledge My Name.
You will call upon Me, / and I will answer you.
I will be with you in distress; / I will deliver you and glorify you.

R: Be with me, O God, when I am in trouble.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 27

Response: O God, You are my light and my salvation.

O God, You are my light and my salvation; / whom will I fear?
You are the stronghold of my life; / of whom will I be afraid?

R: O God, You are my light and my salvation.

Hear me when I cry aloud, / be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek My face." / My heart says to You, / "Your face do I seek."

R; O God, You are my light and my salvation.

Your face do I seek; / hide not Your face from me.
Turn not Your servant away in anger, / You who have been my help.

R: O God, You are my light and my salvation.

I believe that I will see the goodness of Our God / in the land of the living!
Wait for Our God, be strong, and let your heart take courage; / Yes, wait for Our God!

R: O God, You are my light and my salvation.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 103

Response: Our God is kind and merciful.

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 kind and merciful.

In forgiving all your offenses, / in curing all your diseases.

In redeeming your life from the pit, / in crowning you with love and tenderness.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

Our God, who does what is right / is always on the side of the oppressed;

Our God's intentions were revealed to Moses / and God's prowess to Israel.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

Our God is tender and compassionate, / slow to anger, most loving;

No less than the height of heaven over earth

Is the greatness of Our God's love for those who fear God.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — 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!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 126

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.

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY — Psalm 22

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 God save you! / If your God is your friend, let 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 Our God.

R: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

The death of the devout / is precious in Your eyes.
O God, 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,
Our God. 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 the 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 for ever 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 can 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, O Adonai, / 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 the people You redeemed/ and planted them on the mountain of Your inheritance.
The place where You made Your seat, O Adonai,
The sanctuary, O God, 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, Our 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 — Israel 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 — Psalms 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 / MASS DURING THE DAY — 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 AFTER 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 virtuous.

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.

This is the day made memorable by Our God./ What immense joy for us!

R: Give thanks to Our God, who is good, whose love is everlasting.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER — Psalm 30

Response: I will praise You, God, because You have saved me.

I praise you, God, 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, 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 will praise You, God, because You have saved me.

Hear me, Adonai, and be merciful! / Help me, God!
You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance. / I will give thanks to You forever.

R: I will praise You, God, because You have saved me.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER — Psalm 100

Response: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Make a joyful noise to God, / all the lands!
Serve God with gladness! / Come into God's presence with singing!

R: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Know that the Most High is God! / Our God made us, and we belong to this Creator, We are
God's people / and the sheep of God's pasture.

R: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

For Our God is good; / God's steadfast love endures forever,
And God's faithfulness to all generations.

R: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER — Psalm 145

Response: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

Adonai, You are gracious and merciful, / slow to anger and of great kindness. Adonai,
You are good to all / and compassionate toward all Your works.

R: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

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: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

Making known to all Your might / and the glorious splendor of Your reign,
Your reign is a reign for all ages / and Your dominion endures through all generations.

R: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER — Psalm 67

Response: Let the nations praise You, O God.

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: Let the nations praise You, O God.

Let the nations shout and sing for joy, / since You dispense justice to the world;
You dispense strict justice to the peoples, / on earth You rule the nations.

R: Let the nations praise You, O God.

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 peoples, 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 AFTER EASTER — Psalm 97

**Response: O God, You rule; for You are the Most High over all the earth.
O God, You rule; let the earth rejoice; / let the many coast-lands be glad!**

Clouds and thick darkness are round about You, /
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your judgment seat.

R: O God, You rule; for You are the Most High over all the earth.

The heavens proclaim Your righteousness; / and all the peoples behold Your glory.
All gods bow down before You.

R: O God, You rule; for You are the Most High over all the earth.

For You, O God, are Most High over all the earth; / You are exalted far above all gods.

R: O God, You rule; for You are the Most High over all the earth.

PENTCOST 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 8

Response: How wonderful is Your Name, O God, through all the earth!

When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and stars, which You set in place,
Who are we that You should be mindful of us, / that You should care for us?

R: How wonderful is Your Name, O God, through all the earth!

You have made us little less than the gods / and crowned us with glory and honor.
You have given us rule over the works of Your hands, / putting all things under our feet.

R: How wonderful is Your Name, O God, through all the earth!

All sheep and oxen, / yes, and the beasts of the field.
The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea / and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

R: How wonderful is Your Name, O God, through all the earth!

CORPUS CHRISTI — Psalm 110

Response: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

"Sit at My right hand, / till I make your enemies your footstool."

R: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

Our God, send forth from Zion Your mighty scepter. / Rule in the midst of Your foes!

R: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

Your people will offer themselves freely
On the day you lead your host upon the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning, / like dew your youth will come to you.

R: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

Our God has sworn / and will not retract,
"You are a priest forever / in the line of Melchizedek."

R: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 96

Response: Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to Our God a new song! / Sing to Our God, all the earth!
Sing to Our God, / bless God's Name.

R: Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Proclaim God's salvation day after day, / tell of God's glory among the nations.
Tell God's marvels to every people.

R: Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Pay tribute to Our God, families of the people,
Tribute to the God of glory and power. / Bring out the offering, bear it before God.

R: Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Worship Our God in the sacred courts, / tremble before Our God all the earth! Say among the nations, "The Most High is our Rock!"

Our God will judge each nation with strict justice.

R: Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 19

Response: Your words, O God, are spirit and life.

Your law, O God, is perfect; / it refreshes the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted; / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: Your words, O God, are spirit and life.

Your precepts, O God, are right; / they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear, / it gives light to the eyes.

R: Your words, O God, are spirit and life.

Fear of You, O God, is holy, / abiding forever.
Your decrees are faithful, / and all of them just.

R: Your words, O God, are spirit and life.

May the spoken word of my mouth, / the thoughts of my heart,
Win favor in Your sight, O God, / my rescuer, my rock!

R: Your words, O God, are spirit and life.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 71

Response: I will sing of Your salvation.

In You, O God, I take shelter, / never let me be disgraced.

In Your righteousness, rescue me, deliver me, / turn Your ear to me and save me!

R: I will sing of Your salvation.

Be a sheltering rock for me, / a walled fortress to save me!

For You are my rock, my fortress. / My God, rescue me from the hands of the wicked.

R: I will sing of Your salvation.

For You alone are my hope. / O God, I have trusted You from my youth.

I have relied on You since I was born, / You have been my portion from my mother's womb.

R: I will sing of Your salvation.

My lips will proclaim Your righteousness, / and power to save, all day long.

God, You taught me when I was young, / and I am still proclaiming Your marvels.

R: I will sing of Your salvation.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 138

Response: In the sight of angels, I will sing Your praises, O God.

I thank You, Adonai, with all my heart;

I sing praise to You before the gods;

I bow down in front of Your Holy Temple and praise Your Name.

R: In the sight of angels, I will sing Your praises, O God.

Because of Your constant love and faithfulness

Because You have shown that You and Your commands are supreme.

You answered me when I called to You; / with Your strength You strengthened me.

R: In the sight of angels, I will sing Your praises, O God.

All the rulers of the earth will praise You, / Adonai, because they have heard Your promises.

They will sing about what You have done / and about Your great glory.

R: In the sight of angels, I will sing Your praises, O God.

Save me by Your power. / You will do everything You have promised me; Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

R: In the sight of angels, I will sing Your praises, O God.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 1

Response: Happy are they who hope in God.

O the joys of those who walk not after / the advice of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners, / nor sit at the feet of scoffers,
But delight in the law of the Most High / and ponder it day and night.

R: Happy are they who hope in God.

They are like trees planted by streams of water / that yield fruit in due season,
Whose leaves do not wither; / everything they do prospers.

R: Happy are they who hope in God.

The ungodly are not so / but they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
For God knows the ways of the righteous, / but the way of the ungodly will end in ruin.

R: Happy are they who hope in God.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 103

Response: Our God is kind and merciful.

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 kind and merciful.

In forgiving all Your offenses, / in curing all Your diseases,
In redeeming Your life from the Pit, / in crowning You with love and tenderness.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

Our God is tender and compassionate, / slow to anger, most loving;
Our God never treats us, never punishes us / as our guilt and our sins deserve.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

Humans last no longer than grass, / live no longer than the wildflower,
One gust of wind, and they are gone, / never to be seen again.

R: Our God is kind and merciful.

EIGHTH 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-spread.
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.

NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 92

Response: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

Praise God, all you nations; / extol God all you peoples.
For God's love is strong, / God's faithfulness eternal.

R: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

TENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 30

Response: I will praise You, O God, because You have saved me.

I praise You, O God, 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, O God, for You have saved me.

Sing praise to God, You faithful people!
Remember what the Holy One 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 will praise You, O God, for 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 will praise You, O God, for You have saved me.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 32

Response: O God, forgive the wrong I have done.

Happy are those whose fault is taken away, / whose sin is covered.
Happy are those whose sin Our God does not count, / in whose spirit there is no guile.

R: O God, forgive the wrong I have done.

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: O God, forgive the wrong I have done.

You are my shelter, / You will protect me from trouble;
And surround me with songs of deliverance.

R: O God, forgive the wrong I have done.

Rejoice and be glad in Our God, you who are just, / exult, all who are upright of heart.

R: O God, forgive the wrong I have done.

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 63

Response: My soul is thirsting for You, O my God.

O God, You are my God whom I seek; / for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts. Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R: My soul is thirsting for You, O my God.

Thus have I gazed toward You in the sanctuary / to see Your power and Your glory. For Your kindness is a greater good than life; / my lips will glorify You.

R: My soul is thirsting for You, O my God.

Thus will I bless You while I live; / lifting up my hands, I will call upon Your Name. As with the riches of a banquet will my soul be satisfied,
And with exultant lips my mouth will praise You.

R: My soul is thirsting for You, O my God.

That You are my help, / and in the shadow of Your wings I will shout for joy. My soul clings fast to You; / Your right hand upholds me.

R: My soul is thirsting for You, O my God.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 16

Response: You are my inheritance, O God.

Protect me, O God, because I come to You for safety.
I say, "You are my God; / all the good things I have come from You."

R: You are my inheritance, O God.

I praise Our God who guides me, / and in the night my conscience warns me.
I am always aware of Your presence; / You are near, and nothing can shake me.

R: You are my inheritance, O God.

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: You are my inheritance, O God.

You will show me the path that leads to life;
Your presence fills me with joy, / and Your help brings pleasure forever.

R: You are my inheritance, O God.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 66

Response: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth! / Sing the glory of God's Name;
Give glorious praise! / Say to God, "How terrible are Your deeds."

R: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

All the earth worships You / and sings praise to You, sings praise to Your Name.
Come and see what God has done: / tremendous are God's deeds.

R: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

God turned the sea into dry land; / people passed through the river on foot.

There did we rejoice in God / who rules with might forever.

R: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Come and hear, all You who fear God, / and I will tell what the Holy One has done for me.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer / or removed steadfast love from me!

R: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 69

Response: Turn to God in your need and you will live.

I pray to You / for the time of Your favor, O God!
In Your great kindness answer me / with Your constant help.

R: Turn to God in your need and you will live.

But I am afflicted and in pain, / let Your saving help, O God, protect me.
I will praise Your Name with song / and I will glorify God with thanksgiving.

R: Turn to God in your need and you will live.

'See, you lowly ones, and be glad; / you who seek God, may your hearts be merry!
For God hears the poor, / and those who are in bonds God spurns not."

R: Turn to God in your need and you will live.

For God will save Zion / and rebuild the cities of Judah.
The descendants of God's servants will inherit it /
And those who love God's Name will inhabit it.

R: Turn to God in your need and you will live.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 15

Response: Those who act justly will live in the presence of God.

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: Those who act justly will live in the presence of God.

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: Those who act justly will live in the presence of God.

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: Those who act justly will live in the presence of God.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 138

Response: O God, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

I thank You, Adonai, with all my heart; / I sing praise to You before the gods.
I bow down in front of Your Holy Temple and praise Your Name.

R: O God, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

Because of Your constant love and faithfulness,
Because You have shown that You and Your commands are supreme.
You answered me when I called to You; / with Your strength You strengthened me.

R: O God, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

Even though You are so high above, / You care for the lowly,
Even when I am surrounded by troubles, / You keep me safe.

R: O God, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

You will save me by Your power, / You will do everything You have promised me.
Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

R: O God, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 33

Response: Happy the people who are chosen to be God's own.

Ring out your joy to the Creator, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy whose God is the Creator, / the people God has chosen.

R: Happy the people who are chosen to be God's own.

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: Happy the people who are chosen to be God's own.

Our souls are 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: Happy the people who are chosen to be God's own.

ASSUMPTION VIGIL — 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 40

Response: O God, come to my aid.

I have waited and waited for You, Adonai!
Now at last You have stooped to me.

R: O God, come to my aid.

You heard my cry for help. / You have pulled me out of the horrible pit.

R: O God, come to my aid.

Adonai, You have put a new song in my mouth, / a song of praise.
Many will look on in awe / and will put their trust in God.

R: O God, come to my aid.

To me, afflicted and poor, / come quickly.
My helper, my savior, my God, / come and do not delay.

R: O God, come to my aid.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 117

Response: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

Praise Our God, all you nations! / Extol Our God, all you peoples.

R: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

For God's love is strong, / God's faithfulness is eternal.

R: Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 68

Response: God, in Your goodness, You have made a home for the poor.

Let the righteous be joyful; / let them exult before God;
Let them be jubilant with joy; / sing to God, sing praises to God's Name.

R: God, in Your goodness, You have made a home for the poor.

Father of the fatherless, mother of the orphan, / and protector of the weak is God.
God gives the desolate a home to dwell in / and leads the prisoners to prosperity.

R: God, in Your goodness, You have made a home for the poor.

Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad; / You restored Your heritage as it languished. Your flock found a dwelling in it; / in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.

R: God, in Your goodness, You have made a home for the poor.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 90

Response: In every age, O God, You have been our refuge.

You turn humans back into dust / and say, "Go back."
To You a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone,
No more than a watch in the night.

R: In every age, O God, You have been our refuge.

You sweep humans away like a dream / like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers, / by evening it withers and fades.

R: In every age, O God, You have been our refuge.

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: In every age, O God, You have been our refuge.

When morning comes, fill us with Your love, / and then we will celebrate all our days.
Grant success to the work of our hands. / Give success to the work of our hands.

R: In every age, O God, You have been our refuge.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 51

Response: I will rise up, and return to 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: I will rise up, and return to 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: I will rise up, and return to my God.

Open my lips, / and my mouth will speak out Your praise.
My sacrifice is this broken spirit, / You will not scorn this crushed and broken heart.

R: I will rise up, and return to my God.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 113

Response: Praise Our God who lifts up the poor.

You faithful ones of Our God, praise, / praise the Name of Our God!
Blessed be the Name of Our God! / Henceforth and forever!

R: Praise Our God who lifts up the poor.

High over all nations, O God, / Your glory transcends the heavens!
Who is like You, O God? / Seated in judgment so high, You need to stoop
To see the sky and the earth!

R: Praise Our God who lifts up the poor.

You raise the poor from the dust / and lift the needy from the dunghill,
To give them a place with the princes, / with the princes of Your own people.

R: Praise Our God who lifts up the poor.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 146

Response: Praise God, O my soul!

Adonai, You keep faith forever, / secure justice for the oppressed,
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 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!

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 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.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 98

Response: Our God has revealed to the nations God's saving power.

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 revealed to the nations God's saving power.

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 revealed to the nations God's saving power.

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 revealed to the nations God's saving power.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 121

Response: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

I lift my eyes to the mountains; / where is my help to come from?
Help comes to me from Our God, / who made heaven and earth.

R: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

No letting our footsteps slip, / this guard of ours does not doze!
The guardian of Israel / does not doze or sleep.

R: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

Our God guards you, shades you. / With Our God at your right hand,
Sun cannot strike you down by day, / nor moon at night.

R: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

Our God guards you from harm, / guards your lives,
Our God guards your leaving, coming back, / now and for always.

R: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 34

Response: Our God hears the cry of the poor.

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: Our God hears the cry of the poor.

The face of Our God is against the evildoers / to root up their memory from the earth.
The righteous cried; the Most High heard / and saved them out of all their troubles.

R: Our God hears the cry of the poor.

Our God is close to the brokenhearted / and rescues those whose spirit is crushed.

Our God redeems those who serve, / all those taking refuge in God will go free.

R: Our God hears the cry of the poor.

ALL SAINTS DAY / November 1 — Psalm 24

Response: O God, these are the people who long to see Your face.

The world and all that is in it belongs 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, these are 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, these are 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, these are the people who long to see Your face.

ALL SOULS DAY / November 2 — 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.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 145

Response: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

I will extol You, O my God, / and I will bless Your Name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless You, / and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.

R: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

Adonai, You are gracious and merciful, / slow to anger and of great kindness.
Adonai, You are good to all / and compassionate toward all Your works.

R: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

Let all Your works give You thanks, O God, / and let Your faithful ones bless You.
Let them discourse on the glory of Your reign / and speak of Your might

R: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

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: I will praise Your Name forever, my Sovereign, my God.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 117

Response: O God, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.

O God, hear a cause that is just, / pay heed to my cry.

Turn Your ear to my prayer: / no deceit is on my lips.

R: O God, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.

I kept my feet firmly on Your paths; / there was no faltering in my steps.

I am here and I call; You will hear me, O God. / Turn Your ear to me; hear my words.

R: O God, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.

Guard me as the apple of Your eye. / Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

As for me, in my justice, I will see Your face and be filled,

When I awake, with the sight of Your glory.

R: O God, when Your glory appears, my joy will be full.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 98

Response: Our God comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing songs to the Creator with the harp, / with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, / acclaim the Magnificent One.

R: Our God comes to rule the earth with justice.

Let the sea and all within it thunder, / the world and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands / and the hills ring out their joy.

R: Our God comes to rule the earth with justice.

At the presence of the Just Judge who comes, / who comes to rule the earth.

Our God will rule the world with justice / and the peoples with fairness.

R: Our God comes to rule the earth with justice.

THANKSGIVING DAY — Psalm 67

Response: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God, the Most High, has blessed us.

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, the Most High, 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, the Most High, 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, the Most High, has blessed us.

LAST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME / CHRIST THE KING — Psalm 122

Response: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of Our God."

How I rejoiced when they said to me, / "Let us go to the house of Our God."

And now our feet are standing / in your gateway, Jerusalem.

R: I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to the house of Our God."

Jerusalem restored! / The city, one united whole!

Here the tribes come up, / the tribes of Our God.

R: I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to the house of Our God."

They come to praise Our God's Name, / as God ordered Israel,

Here where the tribunals of justice are, / the royal tribunals of David.

R: I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to the house of Our God."