

CYCLE A



INCLUSIVE LECTIONARY

Sunday Readings with
Responsorial Psalms

A

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: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

This is what Isaiah, begot of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple
will be established as the most important mountain
and raised above all other hills.

All nations will stream toward it;
many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain,
to the temple of the God of Jacob,
that we may be instructed in YHWH's ways,
and walk in YHWH's paths."

Instruction will be given from Zion,
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

YHWH will judge between the nations,
and render decisions for many countries.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation will not raise the sword against another,
nor will they train for war again.

O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

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

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

You know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Let us live honorably as in daylight; not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them.

So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two

people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you do not know the day your Savior is coming.

“Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would keep a watchful eye and not allow the house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.
The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you:
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH.
You will delight in obeying YHWH,
and you will not judge by appearances,
or make decisions based on hearsay.
You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.
With a single word, you will strike down tyrants:
with your decrees you will execute evil people.
Justice will be the belt around your waist,
faithfulness will gird you up.
Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the kid;
the calf and lion cub will graze together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together;
the lion will eat hay like the ox.
The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the young child will dance over the viper's nest.
There will be no harm or destruction anywhere on my holy mountain;
for as waters fill the sea,
so will the land be filled with knowledge of YHWH.
On that day, the root of Jesse
will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world;
nations will flock to you,
and your home will be a place of honor.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the scriptures.

May God, the source of all strength and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and one voice,

you may praise the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Accept one another as Christ accepted us, for the glory of God. Christ became a servant of the chosen people to live out the truth of God's promise to them, and at the same time to give the Gentiles cause to glorify God for showing mercy. As scripture has it, "Therefore I will praise you among the nations and I will sing to Your Name."

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: Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At the time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, "Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of Heaven is about to break in upon you!" It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said,

"A herald's voice cries in the desert:

'Prepare the way of Our God, make straight the paths of God!'"

John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John

said to them: "You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And do not pride yourselves on the claim, 'Sarah and Abraham are our parents.' I tell you, God can raise children to Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! "Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I am not even fit to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire."

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 everyone might praise the glory of

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

In Christ we have obtained 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!*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let the desert and the wilderness exult,
let the Arabah rejoice and bloom.
Let it blossom profusely like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of YHWH,
the splendor of the Most High.
Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees;
say to all faint hearts,
“Courage! Do not be afraid!
Look, YHWH is coming,
vindication is coming, YHWH’s recompense;
YHWH is coming to save you.”
Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened,
the ears of those who are deaf will be cleared;
then those who are lame will leap like deer
and the tongues of those who are mute will sing for joy.
They will enter Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them,
and sorrow and lament will flee away.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, my sisters and brothers, until the appearance of Christ. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil, looking forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the second coming is at hand. Do not

grumble against one another, my sisters and brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! To learn how to persevere patiently under hardship, sisters and brothers, take as your models the prophets who spoke in the name of the Most High.

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

While John was in prison, he heard about the works the Messiah was performing, and sent a message by way of his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you ‘The One who is to come’ or do we look for another?” In reply, Jesus said to them, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ‘Those who are blind recover their sight; those who cannot walk are able to walk; those with leprosy are cured; those who are deaf hear; the dead are raised to life; and the anawim — the “have-nots” — have the Good News preached to them.’ “Blessed is the one who finds no stumbling block in me.”

As the messengers set off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What

did you go out to the wasteland to see — a reed swaying in the wind? Tell me, what did you go out to see — someone luxuriously dressed? No, those who dress luxuriously are to be found in royal palaces. So what did you go out to see — a prophet? Yes, a prophet — and more than a prophet! It is about John that scripture says,

‘I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.’

“The truth is, history has not known a person born of woman who is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least born into the kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.”

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

YHWH spoke to Ahaz, “Ask for a sign from YHWH; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!” But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not test YHWH!” Then Isaiah said, “Listen, O House of David! Is it not enough for you

to weary those around you, must you also weary YHWH? Therefore, the Holy One will give you this sign: the young woman will be with child, and give birth, and the child will be given the name Immanu-El.

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

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

From Paul, servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the Good News, which God promised long ago through the prophets, as the holy scriptures record — the Good News concerning God’s Only Begotten, who was descended from David according to the flesh, but was made the Only Begotten of God in power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the

dead: Jesus Christ our Savior. We have been favored with apostleship, that we may bring to obedient faith all the nations, among whom are you who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome, beloved of God and called to be holy people: Grace and peace from our Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — continued

ALLELUIA!

*A young woman will give birth to a child,
whose name will be Immanuel: God is with us.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and

said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, do not be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus 'salvation' — because he will save the people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child
and give birth,
and the child will be named Immanuel,"
— a name that means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage.

*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 nightwatch 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!

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

First Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

This is YHWH's proclamation
to the ends of the earth,
"Say this to Zion,
'Look, your Deliverer comes!
with a sure reward and abundant recompense
called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of YHWH,
and you will be called Sought After,
and a City-not-forsaken."

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

Second Reading: Titus: 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

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

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

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15-20*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

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

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How welcome upon the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good news,
announcing peace, bearing news of happy things,
proclaiming deliverance,
and saying to Zion, “YHWH reigns!”

Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy;
for they see with their own 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, YHWH spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these final days, God has spoken to us through the Only Begotten, who has been made heir of all things and through whom the universe was first created. Christ is the reflection of God’s glory, the exact representation of God’s being; all things are sustained by God’s powerful Word. Having cleansed us from our sins, Jesus Christ sat down at the right

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

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

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18*

The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

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

(continued)

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

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!

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.

HOLY FAMILY — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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

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

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

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (January 1)

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

YHWH said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his heirs, "This is how you will bless the Israelites. Say to them,

May YHWH bless you and keep you!

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

May YHWH look kindly upon you and give you peace!

Thus 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 the Mighty One,
“I came forth from the mouth of YHWH,
and I enveloped the earth like a mist.
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
my judgment seat 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 the Most High 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!

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 upon you,
though darkness still covers the earth
and dense clouds enshroud the peoples the peoples.

Upon you YHWH now dawns
and God's glory will be seen among 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.

You will see them and beam with joy,
Your heart will swell with pride.

The riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you.

Camels in throngs will cover your roads,
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, as we are; 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.

EPIPHANY — continued

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 come to the Temple —
the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for
will come, says YHWH.
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 offer in sacrifice “a pair of turtledoves or to be consecrated to God.” They likewise came 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!*

PRESENTATION OF JESUS

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

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Here is my Servant, whom I uphold
my chosen one, in whom I delight,
I have endowed you with my Spirit
that you may bring true justice to the nations.

You do not cry out or 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.

PRESENTATION OF JESUS — continued

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

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. This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all.

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

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, “I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!”

But Jesus replied, “Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God’s justice.” So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom 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, your God,
who is gracious and merciful,
and ready to forgive.
Who knows ? YHWH may come back, relent,
and leave a blessing behind —
grain and drink offerings
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 bedroom
and the bride her canopied bed.
Let the priests, YHWH's ministers,
stand weeping between the portico and the altar.
and 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 stirred on behalf of the land,
and will take pity on the people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

or

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

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

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

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 2:7 – 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth and blew into its nostrils the breath of life, and so the earth creature became a living being.

YHWH planted a garden in Eden, which is in the east, and placed in it the earth creature which God had formed. Then YHWH caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any of the animals of the field that YHWH had made. It asked the woman, “Did YHWH really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?” The woman

answered the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, YHWH said, ‘Do not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “No! You will not die! God knows well that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to the man, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make loincloths for themselves.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Therefore, sin entered the world through the first humans, and through sin, death — and in this way death has spread through the whole human race, because all have sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given, even though it is not called “sin” when there is no law. Even so, yet death reigned over all who lived from our first parents until Moses, even though their sin — unlike that of our first parents — was not a matter of breaking a law.

But the gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of one couple all died, how much more did the grace of God — and the gracious gift of the One Jesus Christ — abound for all! The gift that came to us is

not at all like what come through the ones who sinned. In the one case, the sentence followed upon one offense and brought condemnation; in the other, the free gift came after many offenses and brought complete acquittal. If death began its reign through one person because of an offense, so much more will those who receive the overflowing grace and gift of justice live and reign through the One Jesus Christ.

To sum up, then: just as a single offense brought condemnation to all, a single righteous act brought all acquittal and life. Just as through one person’s disobedience, all became sinners, so through one person’s obedience, all will become just.

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

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

or

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

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

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. The tempter approached and said, “If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread.”

Jesus replied, “Scripture has it, ‘We live not on bread alone but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City, set him on the parapet of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down. 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 answered, “Scripture also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

The Devil then took Jesus up a very high mountain and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising, “All these will I give you if you fall down and worship me.”

At this, Jesus said to the Devil, “Away with you, Satan! Scripture says ‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’”

At that the Devil left, and angels came and attended Jesus.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis.

YHWH said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and the home of your parents and go to a place I will show you.

“I will make you a great people,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and it will be used to bless others.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the families of the earth
will be blessed in you.”

Sarai and Abram went as YHWH directed, and Lot went with them. Abram was seventy-five years old when they left Haran.

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

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

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, who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done, but because of God’s own purpose

and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has destroyed death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

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

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

or

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

*From the shining cloud a voice is heard:
This is my beloved One; listen!*

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them.

And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured — his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here — one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!”

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the

cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to him!”

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Do not be afraid.” When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, “Do not tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Tormented by thirst, the people bitterly complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it just to have us die of thirst with our children and our cattle?”

Moses appealed to YHWH, “What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” YHWH answered, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel; as you go,

hold in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” Moses did so, in the presence of the elders. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and put YHWH to the test, saying, “Is YHWH in our midst or not?”

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

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

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. 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.

At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless people. It is not easy to die even for a good person — though of course for someone really worthy, there might be someone prepared to die — but the proof of God’s love is that Christ died for us even while we were still sinners.

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, you are truly the Savior of the world;
Give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

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

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's Well was there. Weary from the journey, Jesus came and sat by the well. It was around noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

The Samaritan woman replied, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" — since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water."

"If you please," she challenged Jesus, "you do not have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this 'living water'? Surely you do not pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?"

Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life."

The woman said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I will not grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and then come back here."

"I do not have a husband," replied the woman.

"You are right — you do not have a husband!" Jesus exclaimed. "The fact is, you have had five, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. So what you have said is quite true."

"I can see you are a prophet," answered the woman. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped."

Jesus told her, "Believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we do understand — after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. Yet the hour is coming — and is already here — when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah — the Anointed One — is coming, and will tell us everything."

Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am the Messiah."

(continued)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, “What do you want of him?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

At this, the disciples said to one another, “Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?”

Jesus explained to them,

“Doing the will of the One who sent me and bringing this work to completion is my food. Do you not have a saying, ‘Four months

more and it will be harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields — They are ripe and ready for harvest! Reapers are already collecting their wages; they are gathering fruit for eternal life, and sower and reaper will rejoice together.

So the saying is true:

‘One person sows; another reaps.’ I have sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the work, and you have come upon the fruits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman’s testimony — that and “he told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the woman, “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world.”

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

YHWH said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as ruler of Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children." As they came, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is YHWH's anointed." But YHWH said to Samuel, "Do not judge from Eliab's height and appearance; this is not the one. YHWH does not see as people see: people look at appearances, but I look at the heart."

Jesse then presented seven children to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "YHWH has not

chosen these." He then asked Jesse, "Are these all you have?" He answered, "There is still one left, the youngest, who is out looking after the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he comes." Jesse had the youngster brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. YHWH said, "Come, anoint him, for this is the one." At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David where he stood with his siblings. And the Spirit of YHWH came mightily upon David from that day on. Samuel took his leave and went to Ramah.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

There was a time when you were darkness, but now you are light in Christ. Live as children of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness, justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases our Savior. Take no part in deeds done in darkness, which bear no fruit; rather, expose

them. It is shameful even to mention the things these people do in secret; but when such deeds are exposed and seen in the light of day, everything that becomes visible is light. That is why we read: Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

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

or

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

*I am the light of the world, says the Savior;
the one who follows me will have the light of life.*

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

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”

“Neither,” answered Jesus,

“It was not because of anyone’s sin — not this person’s, nor the parents’.

Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth in this person.

We must do the deeds of the One who sent me while it is still day —

for night is coming, when no one can work.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” — “Siloam” means “sent.” So the person went off and washed, and came back able to see.

Neighbors and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, “Is this not the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said yes; others said no — the one who had been healed simply looked like the beggar.

But the individual in question said, “No, it was I.” The people then asked, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

The answer came, “The one they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash.

When I washed, I was able to see.”

“Where is Jesus?” they asked. The person replied, “I have no idea.”

They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one’s eyes. The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, “Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.”

This prompted some of the Pharisees to say, “This Jesus cannot be from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others argued, “But how could a sinner perform signs like these?” They were sharply divided.

(continued)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

Then they addressed the blind person again: “Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus?”

“He is a prophet,” came the reply.

The Temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents. “Is this your child?” they asked, “and if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see?”

The parents answered: “We know this is our child, blind from birth. But how our child can see now, or who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But do not ask us — our child is old enough to speak without us!” The parents answered in this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why they said, “Our child is of age and should be asked directly.”

A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, “Give God the glory instead; we know this Jesus is a sinner.”

“I do not know whether he is a sinner or not,” the individual answered. “All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.”

They persisted, “Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

“I already told you, but you will not listen to me,” came the answer. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!”

They retorted scornfully, “You are the one who is Jesus’ disciple. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.”

The other retorted: “Well, this is news! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes! We know that God does not hear sinners, but that if people are devout and obey God’s will, God listens to them. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this one were not from God, he could never have done such a thing!”

“What!” they exclaimed. “You are steeped in sin from birth, and you are giving us lectures?” With that, they threw the person out.

When Jesus heard of the expulsion, he sought out the healed one and asked, “Do you believe in the Chosen One?”

The other answered, “Who is this One, that I may believe?”

“You are looking at him,” Jesus replied. “The Chosen One is speaking to you now.”

The healed one said, “Yes, I believe,” and worshiped Jesus.

And Jesus said, “I came into this world to execute justice — to make the sightless see and the seeing blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard this and said, “You are not calling us blind, are you?”

To which Jesus replied, “If you were blind, there would be no sin in that. But since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

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 YHWH, 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.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then though the body is

dead because of sin, the Spirit lives because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life also through the Spirit dwelling in you.

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 am the resurrection and the life, says the Savior:
they who believe in me will not die forever.*

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

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. The sisters sent this message to Jesus: “Rabbi, the one you love is sick.”

When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God’s glory, so that God’s Only Begotten may be glorified because of it.”

Jesus loved these three very much. Yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. Finally he said to the disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

They protested, “Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you — and you want to go back there again?”

Jesus replied, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk by day do not stumble, because they see the world bathed in light; those who go walking by night will stumble because there is no light in them.”

After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, “Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him.” The disciples objected, “But Rabbi, if he is only asleep, he will be fine.”

Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he was talking about

actual sleep. So he said very plainly, “Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I am glad that I was not there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.”

Then Thomas, the Twin, said to the rest, “Let us go with Jesus, so that we can die with him.”

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, many people had come out to console Martha and Mary about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners.

When she got to Jesus, Martha said, “If you had been here, my brother would never have died! Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask.”

“Your brother will rise again!” Jesus assured her. Martha replied, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her: “I am the Resurrection, and I am Life: those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die. “Do you believe this?” “Yes!” Martha replied, “I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God’s Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world.”

(continued)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — continued

When she had said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. “The Teacher is here, asking for you,” she whispered.

As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. Jesus had not gotten to the village yet. He was at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn. When Mary got to Jesus, she fell to his feet and said, “If you had been here, Lazarus never would have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions.

“Where have you laid him?” Jesus asked.

“Come and see,” they said. And Jesus wept.

The people in the crowd began to remark, “See how much he loved him!” Others said, “He made the blind person see; why could he not have done something to prevent Lazarus’ death?”

Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it. “Take away the stone,” Jesus directed.

Martha said, “Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench.”

Jesus replied, “Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took the stone away.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Abba, thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!”

Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, “Untie him and let him go free.”

Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

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

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

Reading for the Blessing of the Palms/Procession: Matthew 21:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey and her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.”

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
 ‘Your sovereign comes to
 you without display
 riding on a donkey, on a colt —
 the foal of a beast of burden.’ ”

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and

her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds — those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed — were all shouting,

“Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!”

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?”

And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY) — continued

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.
YHWH 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.

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

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

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

Where possible, the roles should be distributed among eight readers. Where this is not pastorally possible, the two Speaker roles could be proclaimed by a single person.

The Passion is proclaimed without the Gospel greeting. Candles and incense are never used. The Passion could be read by lay readers. If a priest is available, he may take the part of Christ. 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: Matthew 26:14 — 27:66

The Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

NARRATOR: One of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went off to the chief priests and said:

JUDAS: What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came up to Jesus and said:

SPEAKER ONE: Where do you want us to prepare the Passover for you?

JESUS: Go to a certain person in the city and say, “The Teacher says, ‘My appointed time draws near. I am to celebrate the Passover in your house.’”

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: The disciples did as Jesus ordered and prepared the Passover supper. When it grew dark, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating he said:

JESUS: The truth is, one of you is about to betray me.

NARRATOR: They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn:

SPEAKER ONE: Surely, it is not I, Teacher?

JESUS: The one who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will hand me over. The Chosen One will go as the scripture foretold — but woe to the one by whom the Chosen One is betrayed! It would be better for that one never to have been born at all.

NARRATOR: Then Judas, who was betraying Jesus, said:

JUDAS: Surely it is not I, Rabbi?

JESUS: You have said it yourself.

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

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

NARRATOR: Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them.

JESUS: Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which will be poured out on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. The truth is, I will not drink this fruit of the vine again until the day when I drink it anew with you in Abba's kingdom.

NARRATOR: Then, after singing the Hallel, they walked out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus then said to them:

NARRATOR: Then, after singing the Hallel, they walked out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus then said to them:

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

NARRATOR: Peter responded:

PETER: Though all may fall away because of you, I never will!

JESUS: The truth is, before the cock crows tonight, you will deny me three times.

PETER: Even if I must die with you, I will never disown you.

NARRATOR: And all the other disciples said the same. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemani.

JESUS: Stay here while I go over there and pray.

NARRATOR: Jesus took along Peter, James and John and started to feel grief and anguish. Then he said to them:

JESUS: My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Please, stay here, and stay awake with me.

NARRATOR: Jesus went on a little farther and fell prostrate in prayer.

JESUS: Abba, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. But not what I want — what you want.

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

JESUS: Could you not stay awake with me for even an hour? Be on guard, and pray that you may not undergo trial. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: Withdrawing a second time, Jesus prayed:

JESUS: Abba, if this cup cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done!

NARRATOR: Once more Jesus returned and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. Jesus left them again, withdrew somewhat and prayed for a third time, saying the same words as before. Finally Jesus returned to the disciples and said to them:

JESUS: Are you still sleeping? Still taking your rest? The hour is upon us — the Chosen One is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us be on our way! Look, my betrayer is here.

NARRATOR: While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived — accompanied by a great crowd with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas had arranged to give them a signal, saying:

JUDAS: Whomever I embrace is the one, take hold of him.

NARRATOR: Judas immediately went over to Jesus, embraced him, and said:

JUDAS: Shalom, Rabbi.

JESUS: Friend, just do what you are here to do!

NARRATOR: At that moment, the crowd surrounded them, laid hands on Jesus, and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those who accompanied Jesus drew a sword and slashed at the high priest's attendant, cutting off an ear. Jesus said:

JESUS: Put back your sword back where it belongs. Those who live by the sword die by the sword. Do you not think I can call on my Abba God to provide over twelve legions

of angels at a moment's notice? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?

NARRATOR: Then Jesus said to the crowd:

JESUS: Am I a robber, that you have come armed with swords and clubs to arrest me? Every day I sat teaching in the Temple precincts, yet you never arrested me.

NARRATOR: All this happened in fulfillment of the writings of the prophets. Then all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled.

Those who had seized Jesus led him off to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the religious scholars and elders convened. Peter followed at a distance as far as the high priest's residence. Going inside, Peter sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedrin, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put him to death. They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand.

Finally two came forward who stated:

SPEAKER ONE: This one has declared, "I can destroy God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days."

NARRATOR: The high priest rose and addressed Jesus:

SPEAKER TWO: Have you no answer? What about this testimony leveled against you?

NARRATOR: But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him.

SPEAKER TWO: I order you to tell us under oath, before the living God, whether or not you are the Messiah, the Firstborn of God?

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

JESUS: You have said it yourself. But I tell you: soon you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.

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

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

ALL: He deserves death!

NARRATOR: Then they began to spit at his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped Jesus, saying:

ALL: Play the prophet for us, Messiah! Who struck you?

NARRATOR: While this was happening, Peter was sitting in the courtyard. One of the attendants came over and said:

WOMAN: You were with Jesus the Galilean too, were you not?

NARRATOR: Peter denied it in front of everyone:

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

NARRATOR: When Peter went out to the gate, another attendant saw him and said to those nearby:

WOMAN: This one was with Jesus of Nazareth.

NARRATOR: Again he cursed and denied it:

PETER: I do not know him!

NARRATOR: A little while later, some bystanders came over to Peter and said:

ALL: You certainly are one of them! Even your accent gives you away!

NARRATOR: At that, Peter began cursing and swore:

PETER: I do not know the man!

NARRATOR: Just then a rooster began to crow, and Peter remembered the prediction Jesus had made: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” Peter went out and cried bitterly.

At daybreak, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took formal action against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him and led him away to be handed over to Pilate, the governor.

When he saw that Jesus had been condemned, Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, felt remorse. He took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, and said:

JUDAS: I have sinned! I have betrayed innocent blood!

ALL: What is that to us? It is your affair!

NARRATOR: So Judas flung the money into the sanctuary and left. Then he went off and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the silver, observing:

ALL: It is against the Law to deposit this in the Temple treasury, since it is blood money.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: After some discussion, they used the money to buy Potter's Field as a cemetery for foreigners. That is why that field, even today, is called Blood Field. On that occasion, what was said through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

“They took thirty pieces of silver,
the price for the One
whose price was set
by the children of Israel.
They paid it out for Potter's Field,
as Our God had commanded me.”

Then Jesus was arraigned before Pontius Pilate, the governor, who questioned him:

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS: You say that I am.

NARRATOR: Yet when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no reply. Pilate then said to Jesus:

PILATE: Surely you hear how many charges they bring against you?

NARRATOR: But Jesus did not answer Pilate on a single count, much to the governor's surprise.

Now, on the occasion of a festival, the governor was accustomed to release one prisoner, whomever the crowd would designate. At the time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them:

PILATE: Which one do you wish me to release for you? Barabbas? Or Jesus, the so-called Messiah?

NARRATOR: Pilate knew, of course, that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Jesus over.

While Pilate was still presiding on the bench, his wife sent him a message:

WOMAN: Have nothing to do with that innocent man. I had a dream about him last night that has been troubling me all day long.

NARRATOR: But the chief priests and elders convinced the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas, and have Jesus put to death. So when the governor asked them:

PILATE: Which one do you wish me to release for you?

NARRATOR: They all cried:

ALL: Barabbas!

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them:

PILATE: Then what am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?

ALL: Crucify him!

PILATE: Why? What crime has he committed?

NARRATOR: But they only shouted louder:

ALL: Crucify him!

NARRATOR: Pilate finally realized that he was getting nowhere with this — in fact, a riot was breaking out. Pilate called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so:

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours.

NARRATOR: The whole crowd said in reply:

ALL: Let his blood be on us and on our children.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: At that, Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails, then handed him over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus inside the Praetorium and assembled the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they fixed it on his head, and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock Jesus by dropping to their knees, saying:

ALL: All hail, King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: They also spat at him. Afterward, they took hold of the reed and struck Jesus on the head. Finally, when they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucifixion.

On their way out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon, whom they pressed into service to carry the cross. Upon arriving at a site called Golgotha — which means Skull Place — they gave Jesus a drink of wine mixed with a narcotic herb, which Jesus tasted but refused to drink.

Once they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided his clothes among them by rolling dice; then they sat down and kept watch over him. Above his head, they put the charge against him in writing, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." Two robbers were crucified along with Jesus, one at the right and one at the left.

People going by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads and saying:

ALL: So you are the one who was going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why do you not? Come down off that cross if you are God's Own!

NARRATOR: The chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders also joined in the jeering:

ALL: He saved others but he cannot save himself! So he is the King of Israel! Let us see him come down from that cross, and then we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God rescue him now, if God is happy with him! After all, he claimed to be God's Own."

NARRATOR: The robbers who had been crucified with Jesus jeered at him in the same way.

At noon, a darkness fell over the whole land until about three in the afternoon. At that hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

JESUS: *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*

NARRATOR: Which means:

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

NARRATOR: This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark:

ALL: He is calling for Elijah!

NARRATOR: One of them hurried off and got a sponge. He soaked the sponge in cheap wine and, sticking it on a reed, tried to make Jesus drink. The others said:

ALL: Leave him alone. Let us see whether Elijah comes to his rescue.

(continued)

PASSION SUNDAY — continued

NARRATOR: Once again, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, then he gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies was ripped in half from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders were split and tombs were opened. Many bodies of holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus' resurrection, they came out of their tombs and entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

The centurion and his cohort, who were standing guard over Jesus' body were terror-stricken at seeing the earthquake and all that was happening, and said:

ALL: Clearly, this was God's Own!

(All kneel for a moment in prayer)

NARRATOR: A group of women was present, looking on from a distance. These were the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee as ministers to him. Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James and Joseph; and the mother of Zebedee's children.

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become

a disciple of Jesus, came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day — the one following the Day of Preparation — the chief priests and the Pharisees called at Pilate's residence.

SPEAKER TWO: We recall that, while he was still alive, the imposter made the claim, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore, please issue an order to keep the tomb under surveillance until the third day. Otherwise, Jesus' disciples may go and steal his body and tell the people, "Jesus has been raised from the dead!" This final deception would be worse than the first.

PILATE: You have a guard. Go and secure the tomb as best you can.

NARRATOR: So they went to seal the tomb and post a guard.

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

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

A reading from the book of Exodus.

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

to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house where the lamb is eaten. That night they will eat the roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

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

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

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians.

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

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

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

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

or

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

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

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

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher" and "Sovereign" — and rightly, for so I am. If I, 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!*

GOOD FRIDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

You will prosper, my servant,
you will be raised up and highly exalted.

Even as the crowds were appalled after seeing you —
you were so disfigured as to no longer look human —
so will the crowds be amazed at you,
and rulers will stand speechless before you;
for they will see something never told
and witness something never heard,
“Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the might of YHWH been revealed?”

You grew up like a sapling before us,
like a root in parched soil.
There was no beauty in you, we saw you without esteem;
there was nothing to attract us.
You were rejected and despised by all;
you know suffering, and you are acquainted with sorrow.
People avoided your gaze;
we held you in low esteem.

Yet you bore our infirmities
and carried our suffering.
We thought you were being punished,
struck by YHWH, and brought low.
But you were pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins;
upon you lies a chastening which brings us wholeness,
and through your wounds we are healed.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

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

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

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

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

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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

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

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

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

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

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

Where possible the roles should be distributed among seven readers. Where this is not pastorally possible, the three Speaker roles could be proclaimed by a single person.

The Passion is proclaimed without the Gospel greeting. Candles and incense are never used. The Passion could be read by lay readers. If a priest is available, he may take the part of Christ. 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 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?

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

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

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

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

So Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus:

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

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

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

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

PILATE: So you are a King?

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

PILATE: Truth? What is truth?

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

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

NARRATOR: They answered:

ALL: Not him. We want Barabbas!

NARRATOR: Barabbas was a robber.

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

SPEAKER ONE: All hail the King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: And they struck him in the face.

Pilate came outside once more and said to the crowd:

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

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

PILATE: Look upon the one you accuse!

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

ALL: Crucify him! Crucify him!

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

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

(continued)

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

PILATE: Where do you come from?

NARRATOR: Jesus did not answer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PILATE: Here is your king!

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

PILATE: Do you want me to crucify your king?

SPEAKER THREE: We have no king but Caesar!

NARRATOR: Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull — in Hebrew, “Golgotha.”

There they crucified him, along with two others, one on either side of Jesus. Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross; it read: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”

The notice, in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, was read by many people, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The chief priests said to Pilate:

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

PILATE: I have written what I have written.

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

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

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

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

JESUS: Here is your son.

NARRATOR: Then he said to his disciple:

JESUS: Here is your mother.

(continued)

GOOD FRIDAY — continued

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.

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. God saw that light was good, and YHWH separated light from darkness. YHWH called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

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

Then YHWH said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. YHWH called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the waters “Sea.” And YHWH saw that this was good.

Then YHWH said, “Earth: produce vegetation — plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed, and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And YHWH saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the third day.

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

(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 souls — cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: YHWH made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and YHWH saw that this was good.

Then YHWH said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of

the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

Humankind was created as YHWH’s reflection: in the divine image YHWH created them; female and male, YHWH made them.

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

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

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

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

Second Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then the two of them went on together. When they arrived at the place YHWH had pointed out, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood.

Then he tied up his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.

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

“Here I am!” he replied.

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

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

The angel of YHWH called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “I swear by myself — it is YHWH who speaks — because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only child, I will shower blessings on you. I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will possess the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth blessing 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 panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they could hardly turn. The Egyptians turned to flee from the Israelites, saying “Their God fights for them against us!”

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

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to YHWH: “To you, YHWH, I sing: you have triumphed powerfully; horse and charioteer you have flung into the sea! YHWH is our strength and our courage; you have become our deliverance.

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

EASTER VIGIL — continued

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 God 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 unconsoled,
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.

EASTER VIGIL — continued

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

All you who are thirsty,
 come to the water!
You who have no money,
 come, receive grain and eat;
 come, buy wine and milk,
 without money, without cost!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
 your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you will eat well,
 you will delight in rich fare.
Bend your ear and come to me,
 listen, that you may have life.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you —
 the faithful mercies shown to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
 and a nation which does not know you
 will come hurrying to you —
for the sake of YHWH, the Holy One of Israel,
 who will glorify you.
Seek YHWH while YHWH is still to be found,
 call to YHWH , while YHWH is still near.
Let the wicked abandon their ways,
 the evil their thoughts.
Let them turn back to YHWH , who will take pity on them,
 to YHWH, who will generously forgive.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says YHWH.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so high are my ways above your ways
 and my thoughts above your thoughts.

(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 Wisdom 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 God,
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.

EASTER VIGIL — continued

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 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 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 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common. They would sell their property and goods, sharing

the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Praised be the Abba God of our Savior Jesus Christ, who with great mercy gave us new birth: a birth unto hope, which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a birth to an imperishable inheritance incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you who are guarded with God's power through faith; a birth to a salvation that stands ready to be revealed in the last days.

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may, for a time, have to suffer the distress of many trials. But this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears. Although you have never seen Christ, you love Christ; and without seeing, still you believe, and you rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory, because you are achieving faith's goal — your salvation.

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jesus then said,

“You have become a believer
because you saw me.

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

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14,22-28

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say.

“People of Israel, hear this: Jesus of Nazareth was sent to you with miracles, portents and signs as his credentials — which God performed through him in your

midst, as you well know. Jesus was delivered up by the set purpose and plan of God; you even made use of godless people to crucify and kill him. God freed him from death’s bitter pangs, however, and raised him up again, for it was impossible that death should keep its hold on him.”

David says,

‘I have set Our God ever before me.
God is at my right hand, and I will not be disturbed.
My heart has been glad, my tongue has rejoiced,
my body will live on in hope,
for you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo decay.
You have shown me the paths of Life;
You will fill me with joy in your presence.’ ”

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

When you pray, you call on Abba God, who judges everyone impartially on the basis of their actions. Since this is so, conduct yourselves reverently during your sojourn in a foreign land. Realize that you were delivered from the futile way of life your ancestors handed on to you, not by any diminishable sum of gold or silver but by Christ’s blood,

which is beyond all price: the blood of a spotless, unblemished lamb foreknown before the world’s foundation and revealed for your sake in these last days. It is through Christ that you are believers in God, the God who raised Christ from the dead into glory. Your faith and hope, then, are centered in God.

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — *continued*

Gospel Reading: 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!*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14,36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say.

“Let the whole House of Israel know beyond any doubt that God made this Jesus — whom you crucified — both Messiah and Sovereign.”

When they heard this, they were deeply shaken. They asked Peter and the other disciples, “What are we to do?”

Peter replied, “You must repent and be baptized, each one of you, in the name

of Jesus the Messiah, that your sins may be forgiven; then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was to you and your children that the promise was made, and to all those still far off whom Our God calls.”

In support of his testimony, Peter used many other arguments and kept saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation!” They were convinced of his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptized. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

What credit is there if you patiently endure harsh punishment as a result of your sin? But if you put up with suffering for doing what is right, this is acceptable in God’s eyes. It was for this that you were called, since Christ suffered for you in just this way and left you an example. You must follow in the footsteps of Christ, who did no wrong, who spoke no deceit, who did not return insults when insulted,

who, when made to suffer, did not counter with threats. Instead, Christ trusted the One who judges justly. It was Christ’s own body that brought our sins to the cross, so that all of us, dead to sin, could live in accord with God’s will. By Christ’s wounds you are healed. At one time, you were straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said,

“The truth of the matter is,
whoever does not enter the sheepfold through the gate
but climbs in some other way
is a thief and a robber.
The one who enters through the gate
is shepherd of the sheep,
the one for whom the keeper opens the gate.
The sheep know the shepherd’s voice;
the shepherd calls them by name and
leads them out.
Having led them out of the fold,
the shepherd walks in front of them
and they follow
because they recognize the shepherd’s voice.
They simply will not follow strangers —
they will flee from them
because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”

Even though Jesus used this metaphor with them, they did not grasp what he was trying to tell them. He therefore said to them again:

“The truth of the matter is,
I am the sheep gate.
All who came before me
were thieves and marauders
whom the sheep did not heed.
I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me will be safe.
You will go in and out and find pasture.
The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.
I came that you might have life, and have it to the full.”

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days, as the number of disciples grew, a dispute arose between the Hellenistic Jews and those who spoke Hebrew, that the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. The Twelve assembled the community of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Look around among your numbers for seven people who are acknowledged to be deeply spiritual and prudent, and we will appoint them to this task. This will permit us to concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word."

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the community. They selected Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Spirit; Philip; Prochorus; Nicanor; Timon; Parmenas; and Nicolaus of Antioch, who had been a convert to Judaism. They were presented to the apostles, who prayed over them and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread, while the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased enormously, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Come to Christ — a living stone, rejected by mortals but approved, nonetheless, chosen and precious in God's eyes. And you are living stones as well: you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. For scripture has it,

"See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion;
an approved stone, and precious.
They who put their faith in it
will not be shaken."
The stone is of value for you who have faith.
But for those without faith,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone."
and, at the same time,
"an obstacle and a stumbling stone."

Those who stumble and fall are the disbelievers in God's word; it belongs to their destiny to do so. You, however, are a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart" to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

ALLELUIA!

*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Savior;
No one comes to God except through me.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples,

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God;
 have faith in me as well.
In God’s house there are many dwelling places;
 otherwise, how could I have told you
 that I was going to prepare a place for you?
I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,
 and then I will come back to take you with me,
 that where I am
 there you may be as well.
You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him,

“I myself am the Way.
I am the Truth,
 and I am Life.
No one comes to Abba God
 but through me.
If you really knew me,
 you would know Abba God also.
From this point on,
 you know Abba God
 and you have seen God.”

“Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

(continued)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you do not know me?”

Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.
How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?
Do you not believe that I am in Abba God
and God is in me?
The words I speak are not spoken of myself;
it is Abba God, living in me,
who is accomplishing the works of God.
Believe me that I am in God and God is in me,
or else believe because of the works I do.
The truth of the matter is,
anyone who has faith in me
will do the works I do —
and greater works besides.
Why? Because I go to Abba God.”

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Philip went down to the town of Samaria and there proclaimed the Messiah to them. Without exception, the crowds paid close attention to Philip, listening to his message and taking note of the miracles he performed. Many people were freed from unclean spirits, which came out shrieking loudly. Many people who could not move or could not walk were cured. The rejoicing in the town rose to a fever pitch.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down to these people and prayed that they might receive the Holy Spirit. She had not yet come down upon any of them, since they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus. Upon arriving, the pair laid hands on the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

In your hearts, set Jesus apart as holy and sovereign. Should anyone ask you the reason for this hope of yours, be ever ready to reply, but speak gently and respectfully. Keep your conscience clear so that, whenever you are defamed, those who slander your way of life in Christ may be shamed. If it should be

God's will that you suffer, it is better to do so for good deeds than for evil ones.

The reason Christ died for everyone's sins—for the sake of the just and the unjust — was to lead you to God. Jesus was put to death but was given life in the Spirit.

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

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!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — continued

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples,
 “If you love me
 and obey the command I give you,
I will ask the One who sent me
 to give you another Paraclete, another Helper
 to be with you always —
The Spirit of truth,
 whom the world cannot accept
 since the world neither sees nor recognizes the Spirit
 but you can recognize the Spirit
 because the Spirit remains with you
 and will be within you.
I will not leave you orphaned;
I will come back to you.
A little while now and the world will see me no more;
 but you will see me;
 because I live,
 and you will live as well.
On that day you will know
 that I am in God,
 and you are in me,
 and I am in you.
Those who obey the commandments
 are the ones who love me,
and those who love me
 will be loved by Abba God.
I, too, will love them
 and will reveal myself to them.”

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 words — 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 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.

ASCENSION THURSDAY — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Eleven made their way to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had summoned them. At the sight of the risen Christ they fell down in homage, though some doubted what they were seeing. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words:

“All authority has been given me
both in heaven and on earth.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations.
Baptize them in the name
of Abba God,
and of the Only Begotten,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Teach them to carry out
everything I have commanded you.
And know that I am with you always,
even until the end of the world!”

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a mere Sabbath's walk away. Entering the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying — Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James, begot of Alphaeus; Simon, a member

of the Zealot sect; and Judah, begot of Jacob. Also in their company were some of the women who followed Jesus, his mother Mary, and some of Jesus' sisters and brothers. With one mind, they devoted themselves to constant prayer.

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Rejoice instead, insofar as you share the Savior's sufferings, so that when the glory of Christ is revealed, you will rejoice exceedingly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in all glory has come to rest on you.

See to it, however, that none of you suffers for being a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a destroyer of another's rights. If anyone suffers for being a follower of Christ, that one ought not be ashamed, but should rather glorify God in virtue of that name.

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 17:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

“Abba, the hour has come!
Glorify your Only Begotten, that I may glorify you,
through the authority you have given me over all humankind,
by bestowing eternal life on those you gave me.

And this is eternal life:

to know you, the only true God,
and the one whom you have sent, Jesus, the Messiah.

I have given you glory on earth
by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Now, Abba, glorify me with your own glory,
the glory I had with you before the world began.

I have manifested your Name
to those you gave me from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me;
and now they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything you have entrusted to me
does indeed come from you.

I entrusted to them
the message you entrusted to me, and they received it.

They know that I really came from you;
they believe it was you who sent me.

And it is for them that I pray —
not for the world, but for these you have given me —
for they are really yours, just as all that belongs to me is yours,
and all that belongs to you is mine.

It is in them that I have been glorified.

I am in the world no more,
but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world.

Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me
with your Name — the Name that you gave me —
that they may be one, even as we are one.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

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

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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

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

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

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God

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

A reading from the book of Exodus.

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

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

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

On the morning of the third day, there was thunder and lightning and a dense cloud on the mountain, and such a loud trumpet blast that inside the camp all the people trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet 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 God.” So YHWH said, “Prophesy over these bones. Say, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH. YHWH says this to these bones: I am now going to make breath enter you and you will live. I will put sinews on you, I will make flesh grow on you, I will cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am YHWH.’”

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering, and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. Then YHWH

said to me, “Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, mere mortal! Say to the breath, ‘YHWH says this: Come from the four winds, O breath; breathe on these dead and let them live!’” I prophesied as ordered, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great and immense army.

Then YHWH said, “These bones are the whole house of Israel. They keep saying, ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone. We are as good as dead.’ So prophesy. Say to them, ‘Our Sovereign God 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 first fruits of the
Spirit — we too groan inwardly as we wait
for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if
its object is seen; why does one hope for what
one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see
means awaiting it with patient endurance.

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

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

PENTECOST VIGIL — continued

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-39

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

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

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

First Reading: Exodus 34:4-6,8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses cut two stone tablets like the first, and early the next morning he went up Mount Sinai as YHWH had commanded, taking along the two stone tablets.

YHWH descended in a cloud and stood with Moses. Thus the Most High passed before Moses and proclaimed, "I AM. I AM, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to

anger and rich in kindness and faithfulness." Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship, saying, "If I have found favor with you, YHWH, come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins and receive us as your own."

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

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

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

And now, sisters and brothers, I must say goodbye. Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones send greetings to you.

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

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 3:16-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

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

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

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses told the people, “Remember how for forty years now the Most High, YHWH, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep the commandments. You were afflicted with hunger, and then fed with manna, a food unknown to you, in order to show you that not by bread alone do you live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of YHWH.

“Do not become haughty of heart and unmindful of YHWH, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery; who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your ancestors, that YHWH might afflict you and test you, but also make you prosperous in the end.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

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

The cup that we bless — is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread we break — is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

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

ALLELUIA!

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

ALLELUIA!

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI — continued

Gospel Reading: John 6:51-58

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said,

“I myself am the living bread
come down from heaven.

If any eat this bread
they will live forever;
the bread I will give
for the life of the world
is my flesh.”

The Temple authorities then began to argue with one another. “How can he give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus replied,

“The truth of the matter is,
if you do not eat the flesh
and drink the blood of the Chosen One,
you will not have life in you.

Those who do eat my flesh and drink my blood
have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.

Everyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me, and I live in them.

Just as the living Abba God sent me
and I have life because of Abba God,
so those who feed on me
will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.
It is not the kind of bread your ancestors ate,
for they died.

Whoever eats this kind of bread
will live forever.”

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy One said to me,
“You are my servant Israel,
in whom I will be glorified.”

Thus says YHWH,
who formed me in the womb to be YHWH’s Servant
who destined me to bring back the children of Jacob,
and gather again the people of Israel;

“It is not enough for you to do my bidding,
to restore the tribes of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob
and bring back the survivors of Israel.

I will make you the light of the nations,
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

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

From Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our colleague:

To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the holy ones throughout Achaia:
Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessed be Abba God, the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Source of all mercies and the
God of all consoling.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

The next day, catching sight of Jesus approaching, John exclaimed, “Look, there’s God’s sacrificial lamb, who takes away the world’s sin! 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.’ I did not recognize him, but it was so that he would be revealed to Israel that I came baptizing with water.”

John also gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and the Spirit came to rest on him. I didn’t recognize him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, that is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen for myself and have testified that this is the Only Begotten of God.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the past, YHWH humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future YHWH will bring glory to this Road to the Sea, this Land beyond the Jordan, this Galilee of the Nations.

YHWH, you have made the nation greater—
you have brought them abundant joy!

They celebrate in your presence
as with the harvest celebrations,
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them,
the weight on their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressors—

You have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

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

I beg you, sisters and brothers, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, to agree in your message. Let there be no factions. Rather, be united in mind and judgment. I have been informed, my sisters and brothers, by certain members of Chloe's household, that you are quarreling among yourselves. What I mean is, one of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," another, "I belong to Apollos," still another, "I belong to Cephas," still another, "I belong to Christ." What — has Christ been divided into parts? Was it Paul who

was crucified for you? Was it in Paul's name that you were baptized? Frankly, I am thankful I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that none of you can say you were baptized in my name! Oh yes, I did baptize the household of Stephanas, but no one else as far as I can remember.

The point is, Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with human rhetoric, however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning!

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way, the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:
the people who lived in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

From that time on, Jesus began his preaching proclaiming the message, “Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers — Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew — casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers — James and John, begot of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Seek YHWH, all you living humbly on the land
You who obey YHWH's laws!

Seek integrity, seek humility,
that perhaps you may find security
on the day of the anger of YHWH.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people,
and they will find refuge in the Name of YHWH.

Those left in Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies;
no words of deceit will pass their lips;
they will graze and lie down to rest with no one to terrify them.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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

Consider your calling, sisters and brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were influential, and surely not many were well-born. God chose those whom the world considers foolish to shame the wise, and singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong. The world's lowborn and despised, those who count for

nothing, were chosen by God to reduce to nothing those who were something. In this way no one should boast before God. God has given you life in Christ Jesus and has made Jesus our wisdom, our justice, our sanctification and our redemption. This is just as it is written, "Let the one who would boast, boast in Our God."

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

ALLELUIA!

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 in 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 are those who work for peace:
they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those 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!

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Share your bread with those who are hungry,
and shelter homeless poor people;
clothe those who are naked,
and do not hide from the needs
of your own flesh and blood.

Do this and your light will shine like the dawn,
your healing will break forth like lightning!

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of YHWH will be your rearguard.

Cry, and YHWH will answer;
call, and YHWH will say, "I am here"—
provided you remove from your midst all oppression,
finger pointing, and malicious talk.

If you give yourself to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows will become like noon.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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

As for myself, sisters and brothers, when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or wisdom. No, I determined that while I was with you I would know nothing but Jesus Christ—Christ crucified. When I came among you, it was in weakness and

fear, and with much trepidation. My message and my preaching did not rest on philosophical arguments, but on the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. You do not build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do

you? You do not light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of the prophet Sirach.

You are free to keep the Commandments;
it is in your power to be faithful.
YHWH has placed fire and water before us all:
each must choose one.

We have before us life and death;
we are to choose which we prefer.
For YHWH's wisdom is immense; it is all-powerful, all-seeing;
YHWH sees everything in all creation;
nothing escapes YHWH's eyes.

No one has YHWH's permission to sin;
none is given the strength to tell lies.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

Still, there is a certain wisdom that we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are headed for destruction. No, what we utter is God's wisdom: a mysterious, hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory.

None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would

never have crucified the Sovereign of Glory. Of this wisdom it is written, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on anyone what God has prepared for those who love God."

Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Holy Spirit who searches out all things, even the deep things of God.

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

ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “Do not think I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the Law, not the smallest part of a letter, will be done away with until it is all fulfilled. That is why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.

“I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘No killing’ and ‘Every murderer will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that everyone who is angry with sister or brother is subject to judgment. Anyone who says to sister or brother, ‘I spit in your face!’ will be subject to the Sanhedrin; and anyone who vilifies them with name-calling will be subject to the fires of Gehenna.

“If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has a grudge against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift.

“Lose no time in settling with your opponents. Do so while still on the way to the courthouse with them. Otherwise your opponents may

hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the bailiff, who will throw you into prison. I warn you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

“You have heard the commandment, ‘No committing adultery.’ But I tell you that those who look lustfully at others have already committed adultery with them in their hearts. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It’s better to lose part of your body than to have it all cast into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It’s better to lose part of your body than to have it all cast into Gehenna.

“It was also said, ‘Whenever a couple divorces, each partner must get a decree of divorce.’ But I tell you that everyone who divorces — except because of adultery — forces the spouse to commit adultery. Those who marry a divorced person also commit adultery.

“Again, you have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘Do not break your vow; fulfill all oaths made to Our God.’ But I tell you do not swear oaths at all. Do not swear by heaven, for it is God’s throne; do not swear by the earth, for it is God’s footstool. Do not swear by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. And do not swear by your own head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Say ‘Yes’ when you mean ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ when you mean ‘No.’ Anything beyond that is from the Evil One.”

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

YHWH told Moses to tell whole Israelite community these things: Be holy, for I, YHWH, am holy. Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid

storing up ill feelings. Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am YHWH”.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

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

Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If you destroy God’s temple, God will destroy you — for the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not delude yourselves. Any who think themselves wise in a worldly way had better become fools. In that way you will really be wise, for the wisdom of this world is absurdity with God — as scripture says,

“God knows how empty are the arguments of the wise;” and again, “God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.” So there is nothing to boast about in anything human, whether it be Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all these are yours, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “You have heard the commandment, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you, offer no resistance whatsoever when you are confronted with violence. When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer the other. If anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, hand over your coat as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go two miles. Give to those who beg from you. And do not turn your back on those who want to borrow from you.

“You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbor — but hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun to rise on bad and good alike; God’s rain falls on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Do tax collectors not do as much? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers, what is so praiseworthy about that? Do Gentiles not do as much? Therefore be perfect, as Abba God in heaven is perfect.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Zion said,
“YHWH has abandoned me,
YHWH has forgotten me.”
Does a woman forget her baby at the breast,
or fail to cherish the child of her womb?
Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

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

Therefore, we should be regarded as people in service to Christ, as people entrusted with the mysteries of God. The first requirement of those who have been given a trust is faithfulness. It matters little to me whether you or any human court pass judgment on me. I do not even pass judgment on myself. Mind you, I have nothing on my conscience.

But that does not mean I am declaring myself innocent. Christ is the One to judge me, so stop passing judgment prematurely. Christ will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and manifest the intentions of hearts. At that time, all will receive from God the praise they deserve.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:24-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “No one can serve two superiors. You will either hate one and love the other, or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give yourself to God and money. That is why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing. Is life not more than just food? Is the body not more than just clothes?

“Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet Our God in heaven feeds them. Are you not more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work; they

do not spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, will God not do so much more for you — you who have so little faith!

“Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, ‘What are we to eat,’ or ‘what are we to drink,’ or ‘what are we to wear?’ Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you need. Seek first God’s reign, and God’s justice, and all these things will be given to you besides. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses told the people, “Put my words in your heart, and on your body. Tie them as a symbol on your hand, and fix them as a symbol on your forehead.

“Look, I give you today the choice of a blessing or a curse: a blessing if you keep the

commandments of YHWH, your God, which I give you this day; a curse if you ignore those commandments and turn from the way that I show you today, and seek out other gods unknown to you.

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

Second Reading: Romans 3:21-25, 28

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from the Law, even though both Law and prophets bear witness to it; the justice of God works through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. There are no exceptions: everyone has sinned; everyone falls short of the glory of God. Yet everyone has also been undeservedly justified by the gift of

God, through the redemption wrought in Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice, for the atonement of all who have faith in Christ's blood.

We maintain that one is justified by faith—apart from keeping the law.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:21-27

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “It is not those who cry out, ‘My Savior! My Savior!’ who will enter the kingdom of Heaven; rather, it is those who do the will of Abba in heaven. When that day comes, many will plead with me, ‘Savior! Savior! Have we not prophesied in your name? Have we not exorcised demons in your name? Did we not perform many miracles in your name as well?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Out of my sight, you evildoers!’

“Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the sage who built a house on rock. When the rainy season set in, the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted the house. It did not collapse because it had been set solidly on rock. Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the fool who built a house on sandy ground. The rains fell, the torrents came, the winds blew and lashed against the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Hosea 6:3-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

“Let us come to know YHWH intimately, and pursue that knowledge zealously. And as sure as the sun rises in the morning, YHWH will come, and will return to us like the rains of winter, like the rains of spring that water the earth. And Judah, what am I going to do with you? Your devotion is like the morning

fog, like the dew of the morning that vanishes! So I hack them to pieces through my prophets and slay them with the words of my mouth. My judgments flash like lightning before you. For I desire kindness toward others, not sacrifice, acknowledgement of YHWH, not burnt offerings.

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

Second Reading: Romans 4:18-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Hoping against hope, Sarah and Abraham believed, and so became the mother and father of many nations, just as it was once promised them: “Numerous as this will your descendants be.” Sarah and Abraham, without growing weak in faith, thought about their bodies, which were very old — he was about one hundred, and she was well beyond child-bearing age. Still they never questioned or doubted God’s promise; rather, they grew strong in faith and gave glory to God, fully persuaded that God

could do whatever was promised. Thus, Sarah’s and Abraham’s faith “was credited to them as righteousness.”

The words, “was credited to them,” were not written with Sarah and Abraham in mind alone; they were intended for us, too. For our faith will be credited to us if we believe in the One who raised Jesus our Savior from the dead; the Jesus who was handed over to death for our sins and raised up for our justification.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

As Jesus walked on, he saw Matthew, a tax collector, at his post. Jesus approached and said, “Follow me,” and Matthew got up and followed.

Now it happened that, while Jesus was at table in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and notorious “sinners” came to join Jesus and the disciples at dinner. The Pharisees saw this and complained to the

disciples, saying, “What reason can the Teacher have for eating with tax collectors and sinners?”

Overhearing the remark, Jesus said, “People who are in good health do not need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire compassion not sacrifices.’ I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Israelites came to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp. While Israel was encamped there in front of the mountain, Moses 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.”

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

Second Reading: Romans 5:6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless people. It is not easy to die even for a good person — though of course for someone really worthy, there might be someone prepared to die — but the proof of God’s love is that Christ died for us even while we were still sinners.

Now that we have been justified by Christ’s blood, it is all the more certain that we will

be saved by Christ from God’s wrath. For if we were reconciled to God by Christ’s death while we were God’s enemies, how much more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by Christ’s life! Not only that, we go so far as to make God our boast through our Savior Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to the disciples, "The harvest is bountiful but the laborers are few. Beg the overseer of the harvest to send laborers out to gather the harvest."

Jesus summoned the Twelve, and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and to heal sickness and diseases of all kinds.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: the first were Simon, nicknamed Peter — that is, "Rock" — and his brother Andrew; then James, begot of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas;

Matthew, the tax collector; James, begot of Alphaeus; Thaddeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

These twelve Jesus sent out after giving them the following instructions:

"Do not visit Gentile regions, and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The reign of heaven has drawn near.'

"Heal those who are sick, raise the dead, cure leprosy, expel demons. You received freely — now freely give."

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said,

“Yes, I hear the whispering of many,

‘Terror all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce Jeremiah!’

All those who were my friends

are watching for any misstep.

They say,

‘Perhaps he will trip up;

then we can get the better of him

and take our vengeance on him.’

But YHWH is with me, like a mighty champion;

my persecutors will trip up, they will not triumph.

They will be put to utter shame,

to lasting, unforgettable disgrace.

YHWH Omnipotent, you who test the just,

who probe mind and heart,

let me witness the vengeance You take on them,

for to You I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to YHWH, praise YHWH,

for YHWH has rescued the life of the poor

from the power of the corrupt!”

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

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Therefore, sin entered the world through the first humans, and in this way, death has spread through the whole human race, because all have sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given even though it's not called "sin" when there is no law. Even so, death reigned over all who lived from our first parents until Moses, even though their sin —

unlike that of our first parents — was not a matter of breaking a law.

But the gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of one couple all died, much more did the grace of God — and the gracious gift of the One Jesus Christ — abound for all!

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:26-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the apostles, "Do not let people intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing is hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

"Do not fear those who deprive the body of life but can't destroy the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna.

"Are not the sparrows sold for pennies? Yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Abba God's knowledge. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid of anything—you are worth more than an entire flock of sparrows.

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before Abba God in heaven. Whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before Abba God in heaven."

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

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second book of Kings.

One day Elisha went to Shunem. There was a wealthy woman, who urged him to stay for a meal. In the course of time, whenever Elisha traveled that way, he would stop for a meal. "I have come to believe that the person who stops for a meal is a prophet of YHWH. Let us set up a small room on the roof with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he can stay here whenever he comes to see us."

One day Elisha arrived, and he went up to his room to rest. Rested, he said to his disciple Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." He called her and she came to the prophet. Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'You have been so generous to me. Now

what can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the ruler or to the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people."

Elisha asked Gehazi "What can be done for her?" He answered. "She has no children, and her husband is old." Then Elisha said, "Call her." She was called and she stood in the doorway. "About this time next year you will be holding a son in your arms," the prophet of God said. "No, prophet of YHWH," she objected, "Do not mislead me."

But the woman did get pregnant, and the next year she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha told her.

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

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4,8-11

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.

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 is now 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!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:37-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, “Those who love mother or father, daughter or son more than me are not worthy of me. Those who will not carry with them the instrument of their own death — following in my footsteps — are not worthy of me.

“You who have found your life will lose it, and you who lose your life for my sake will find it.

“Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.

“Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of holy ones.

“The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward.”

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

First Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice in heart and soul, daughter of Zion,
shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
Look! Your ruler comes to you” victorious and triumphant,
humble, riding on a donkey.
The ruler will banish chariots from Ephraim,
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow will be banished.
The ruler will proclaim peace for the nations;
the empire stretching from sea to sea
from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:9,11-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Christ. But if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life also through the Spirit dwelling in you.

Therefore, we are under an obligation, my sisters and brothers, but not to the flesh or to live according to the flesh. If you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the evil deeds of the body and you will live.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then Jesus prayed, “Abba, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be.”

Jesus continued,

“Everything has been handed over to me
by Abba God.

No one knows the Only Begotten
except Abba God,
and no one knows Abba God
except the Only Begotten —
and those to whom the Only Begotten
wants to give that revelation.

Come to me,
all you who labor and carry heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon your shoulders
and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart.

Here you will find rest for your souls,
for my yoke is easy
and my burden is light.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
until they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the sower
and bread for food,
So will my word be
that goes forth from my mouth.
It will not return to me empty,
but will carry out my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God. Creation was subjected to transience and futility, not of its own accord, but because of the One who once subjected it — in the hope that creation itself would be freed

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

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables:

“One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it

landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!”

When the disciples came to Jesus, they asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” Jesus answered, “The secrets of the kingdom of Heaven are for you to know, but not for them. To those who have, more will be given until they have an abundance; those who have not will lose what little they have.

“I use parables when I speak to the people because they look but do not see, they listen but do not hear or understand. Isaiah’s prophecy is being fulfilled in them, which says,

‘You will be ever listening, but never understanding;
you will be ever looking, but never perceiving.
For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts and turn back to me,
and I would heal them.’

“But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. The truth is, many prophets and holy people longed to see what you see but never saw it, to hear what you hear but never heard it.

“Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first

welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

For there is no God, other than You,
who cares for every living thing,
to whom You might have to prove
that You have never unjustly condemned.
For Your strength is the source of justice;
Your command over all makes You lenient to all.
for You show Your strength
when the perfection of Your power is disbelieved.
In those who know You, You rebuke insolence;
but, disposing of such strength,
You are mild in judgment.
You govern us with great lenience,
for You have only to will, and Your power is there.
You have taught Your people, by these deeds,
that those who are just must be kind;
and You gave Your children good ground for hope
that You would permit repentance for their sins.

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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 the Spirit's intercessions for God's holy people are made according to the mind of God.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: “The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well.

“The farmer’s workers came and asked, ‘Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?’

“The farmer replied, ‘I see an enemy’s hand in this.’

“They in turn asked, ‘Do you want us to go out and pull them up?’

‘No,’ replied the farmer, ‘if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters to first collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Jesus presented another parable to the crowds, “The kingdom of Heaven is like the mustard seed that a farmer sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all—it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches.”

Jesus offered them still another parable: “The kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a baker

took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through.”

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables. He spoke to them in parables only, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce things hidden since the creation of the world.”

Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. The disciples also came in and said, “Explain the parable about the weeds in the field.”

Jesus answered, “The farmer sowing the good seed is the Chosen One, the field is the world, and the good seed, the citizens of the kingdom. The weeds are the followers of the Evil One, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, while the harvesters are the angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned, so it will be at the end of the age. The Chosen One will send the angels who will weed out the kingdom of everything that causes sin and all who act lawlessly. The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. But those who are just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Abba God. Let those of you who have ears to hear, hear this!”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

In Gibeon YHWH appeared to Solomon in a dream at night saying, "Ask what you would like me to do for you." Solomon replied, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, David, who was faithful, righteous, and obedient to you. And you have generously maintained this constant love toward us, and now you have appointed a successor to sit on the judgment seat this very day.

Give me, your servant, a discerning heart, so that I may distinguish good from evil to govern your people with wisdom."

It pleased YHWH that Solomon made such a request, and replied. "I grant your request. I will give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, nor will there be after your time."

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose. They are the ones God chose long ago, predestined to share the image of the

Only Begotten, in order that Christ might be the firstborn of many. Those whom God predestined have likewise been called; those whom God called have also been justified; and those whom God justified have been glorified.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus addressed the disciples,

“The kingdom of God is like a buried treasure found in a field. The ones who discovered it hid it again, and, rejoicing at the discovery, went and sold all their possessions and bought that field.

“Or again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant’s search for fine pearls. When one pearl of great value was found, the merchant went back and sold everything else and bought it.

“Or again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collected all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishers hauled it ashore. Then, sitting down, they

collected the good ones in a basket and threw away those that were of no use. This is how it will be at the end of time. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the just and throw the wicked into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?”

“Yes,” they answered.

To this Jesus replied, “Every religious scholar who has become a student of the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who can bring from the storeroom both the new and the old.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

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, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

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.

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:35,37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither

angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths—nor anything else in all creation—will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick.

As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them: “There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves.”

“We have nothing here,” they replied, “but five loaves and a couple of fish.”

“Bring them here,” Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Arriving in Horeb, the mountain of YHWH, Elijah went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of YHWH came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah? Go out and stand on the mountain before YHWH, for YHWH is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks by YHWH’s power, but YHWH was not in the whirlwind. After

the wind there was an earthquake. But YHWH was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But YHWH was not in the fire. And after the fire there came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. A voice said, “Elijah, what are you doing here?”

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

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I speak the truth in Christ: I am not lying — my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit that there is great grief and constant pain in my heart. Indeed, I would cut myself off from Christ if that would save my sisters and brothers, my kinfolk — the Israelites. Theirs were the adoption as God’s children,

the glory, the covenants, the Law-giving, the worship and the promises; theirs was the ancestry, and from them came the Messiah — at least, according to human ancestry. Blessed forever be God who is over all! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, Jesus went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves that had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them, "Do not worry, it's I! Do not be afraid!"

Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water."

"Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

ASSUMPTION OF MARY / VIGIL MASS

First Reading: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15, 16; 16:1-2

A reading from the first book of Chronicles.

David brought all of Israel together at Jerusalem to witness the Ark being brought up and placed in the tent he had prepared. He also called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites. The Levites carried the Ark of YHWH, bearing it on poles, the way Moses had commanded on YHWH's instructions.

David ordered the leaders of the Levites to appoint as musicians those of their relatives

who were skilled in making joyful sounds on their instruments – lutes, lyres, and cymbals.

When they finished bringing in the Ark of YHWH, they placed it inside the tent David had set up for it, and presented whole burnt offerings and peace offerings to YHWH.

Once the sacrifices were done, David blessed the people in the name of YHWH, and distributed a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a raisin cake to each Israelite.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal body has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true, "Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting?" Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law — but thank God for giving us the victory through our Savior Jesus Christ!

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

ALLELUIA!

Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Luke 11:27-28

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" "Rather," Jesus replied, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

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 first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through one human being, in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one human being. Just as in the first humans all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the

first fruits, and then the faithful when Christ comes again. After that will come the end, when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Creator, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under Christ's foot, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

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 Elizabeth's and Zechariah's house. Mary 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 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.

Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says YHWH:

“Do what is right,
work for justice.
For my liberation is about to come
and my justice is about to be revealed.”
For thus says YHWH,
“The foreigners who join themselves to me,
ministering to me,
loving the name of YHWH, and becoming my servants—
all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it,
and cling to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain.
I will make them joyful in my house of prayer.”

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

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I say this now to you Gentiles: “Inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry, trying to rouse my own people to jealousy and save some of them. For if their rejection has meant reconciliation for the world, what will their acceptance mean? Nothing less than life from the dead!

God’s gift and God’s call are irrevocable.

Just as you were once disobedient to God and now have received mercy through Israel’s disobedience, now they have become disobedient — since God wished to show you mercy — that they too may receive mercy. God has imprisoned all in disobedience in order to have mercy on everyone.”

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left Gennesaret and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, "Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed."

Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, "Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us." Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, "My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, "Help me, Rabbi!"

He answered, "But it is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

"True, Rabbi," she replied, "but even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table."

Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." At that very moment her daughter was healed.

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says YHWH:

“Go! Go to this official named Shebna,
the palace governor, and say
I will remove you from your office
and pull you down from your station.
The day you are demoted, I will summon my faithful one
Eliakim, begot of Hilkiah.
I will clothe Eliakim with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and entrust him with your authority.
He will care for the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and for the house of Judah.
I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
when he opens, no one will shut,
when he shuts, no one will open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family.’ ”

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

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Oh, how deep are the riches and the wisdom
and the knowledge, how inscrutable the
judgments, how unsearchable the ways of
God! For, “Who has known the mind of
God or been God’s counselor? Who has

given God anything to deserve something in
return?” For all things are from God and
through God and for God. To God be glory
forever! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

“You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon begot of Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. I also

tell you this: Your name now is ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

“Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

You duped me, YHWH, and I let myself be duped;
you were too strong for me, and you triumphed.
All day, I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.
Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
“Violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the Most High has brought me
derision and reproach all the day.
I say to myself, “I will not mention YHWH,
nor will I speak in YHWH’s name any more.”
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones;
I grow weary holding it in,
I cannot endure it.

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

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not

conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you may judge what God’s will is — what is good, pleasing and perfect.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You are setting your mind not on the things of God, but on the things of mortals.”

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps.

“If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self?

“The Promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct.”

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Now, mere mortal, I make you sentinel for the House of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you must give them my warning.

If I say to evildoers, “You will surely die,” and you do not warn them to turn from

their ways, the evildoers will die because of their sin, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths. But if you warn the evildoers to turn from their sin, they will die for their sins, but you will have saved your life.

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

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Owe no debt to anyone — except the debt that binds us to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you have fulfilled the Law. The commandments — no committing adultery, no killing; no stealing, no coveting,

and all the others — are all summed up in this one: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love never does any wrongs to anyone — hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

“The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:28 – 28:1–7

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer YHWH's vengeance,
for the Most High remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbors when they offend you,
then you will be forgiven when you pray.
When we tend our anger against another,
how can we expect compassion from YHWH?
If we refuse mercy to our neighbor,
can we ever seek YHWH's forgiveness for our sins?
If mere mortals cherish rage,
to whom will they turn for forgiveness
Meditate on the last things, and end your quarrelling;
meditate on your end, and stop sinning.
Meditate on the commandments, and do not hate your neighbor;
meditate on YHWH's covenant, and forgive all who offend you.

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

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We do not live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves. While we live, we live for Christ Jesus, and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus. Both in life and in death we belong to Christ. That is why Christ died and came to life again—in order to reign supreme over both the living and the dead.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

“No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here’s why:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

“At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

“Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars.

The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe!’

“The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full.’ But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

“When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved, and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the first official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I canceled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

“My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

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

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“Seek me YHWH while I may still be found,
call upon me while I am near!
Let the corrupt abandon their ways,
the evil their thoughts.
Let them return to YHWH, and I will have mercy on them;
return to YHWH, for I will freely pardon.

“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.”

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

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I firmly trust and anticipate that I will never be put to shame for my hopes; I have full confidence that, now as always, Christ will be exalted through me, whether I live or die.

For to me, “life” means Christ; hence dying is only so much gain. If, on the other hand, I am to continue living on earth, that means productive toil for me—and I honestly do not know which I prefer. I am strongly attracted to both: I long to be freed from

this life and to be with Christ, for that is the far better thing; yet, it’s more urgent that I remain alive for your sakes.

Conduct yourselves, then, in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ. If you do, whether I come and see you myself or hear about your behavior from a distance, it will be clear that you are standing firm in unity of spirit, and exerting yourselves with one accord for the faith of the Gospel.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “The kingdom of God is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

“About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ At that, they left.

“Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

‘No one has hired us,’ they replied.

The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

“When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them

their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet, they received the same daily wage.

“Thereupon they complained to the owner, ‘This last group did only an hour’s work, but you have put them on the same basis as those who have worked a full day in the scorching heat.’

“My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I am free to do as I please with my money. Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“Thus, the last will be first and the first will be last.”

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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of YHWH is not just!’ Listen, you Israelites! Am I unjust? It is your ways that are unjust. If the just turn from their integrity, take to evil ways, and die, it is because of their evil ways that they die. If

sinners give up their evil ways and do what is just and right, they preserve their life. They acknowledged their sins and turned their backs on all their wrongdoing, and they will live.”

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

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If our life in Christ means anything to you— if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy can persuade you at all—then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely

happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking 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 on 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.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus put this parable to the chief priests and elders of the people, “What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, ‘My child, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ This first child replied, ‘No, I will not,’ but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child

said in reply, ‘I am on my way,’ but never went. Which of the two did what was wanted?” They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn’t believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn’t repent and believe.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me now sing of my friend.
 It is a love song about a vineyard.
 My friend had a vineyard
 on a fertile hillside.
 My friend dug the soil, cleared the stones,
 and planted the choicest vines,
 And within it built a watchtower
 and constructed a wine press.
 My friend anticipated the crop of grapes,
 but what it yielded was rotten grapes.
 Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
 judge between me and my vineyard:
 What more could I have done for my vineyard
 that I have not done?
 Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
 did it bring forth bad fruit?
 Now, I will let you know
 what I mean to do to my vineyard:
 take away its hedge, give it over to grazing,
 break through its wall, let it be trampled!
 I will let it go to wilderness;
 it will not be pruned or hoed,
 but overgrown with thorns and briars.
 I will command the clouds
 not to send rain upon it.
 The vineyard of YHWH Omnipotent is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah are YHWH's cherished vine.
 YHWH looked for justice, but found bloodshed,
 for righteousness, but found only a cry of suffering.

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

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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. Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be

wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted; what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people "Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey.

"When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another and stoned a third. A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, 'They will respect my heir.'

"When the vine-growers saw the heir, they said to one another, 'Here's the one who stands in the way of our having everything.

With a single act of murder, we would seize the inheritance.' With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?"

They replied, "The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time."

Jesus said to them, "Did you ever read in the scriptures, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; it was our God's doing and we find it marvelous to behold'?

"That is why I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people who will bear its fruit."

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain,
YHWH Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
food rich and succulent, and fine, aged wines.
On this mountain, YHWH will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud covering all nations,
destroying all death forever.
YHWH will wipe away
the tears from every cheek,
and take away the shame of YHWH's people on earth,
wherever they live.
YHWH has spoken.
On that day it will be said,
"This is Our God,
this is the One for whose liberation we waited,
YHWH is the One in whom we hoped.
We rejoice exultantly in our deliverance,
for the hand of YHWH rests on this mountain."

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

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know what it is to be brought low, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret: whether on a full stomach or an empty one, in poverty or plenty, I can do all things through the One who gives me strength.

Still, it was kind of you to want to share in my hardships. In return, our God will fulfill all your needs in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. All glory to Our God and Creator for unending ages! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family’s heir; but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn’t come. The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, ‘I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.’ But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. The ruler was furious, and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town.

“Then the ruler said to the workers, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I

invited do not deserve the honor. Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.’ The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests.

“The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table, and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. ‘My friend,’ said the ruler, ‘why are you here without a wedding garment?’ But the guest was silent. Then the ruler said to the attendants, ‘Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“Many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1,4-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says YHWH to the anointed one, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my Servant,
For the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name,
conferring on you an honored title,
even though you do not know me.
I am YHWH, and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun that
there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

The beginning of the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the people
of the church in Thessalonica, who belong
to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be yours.

We always thank God for all of you and
remember you in our prayers. We call to
mind before our God and Creator how you
are proving your faith by your actions,

laboring in love, and showing constancy of
hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God,
that you have been chosen. Our preaching of
the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It
was done in the power of the Holy Spirit, and
with complete conviction. You know very well
the sort of life we led when we were with you,
which was for your sake.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you are honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and do not act out of respect for important people. Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?” Jesus recognized their bad faith, and said to them,

“Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Do not mistreat or oppress foreigners, for once you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not take advantage of widows or orphans. If you do afflict them, they will cry out to me – and be certain that I will hear their complaint. My anger will be like fire, like a sword that will kill you. Your spouses will become widows and widowers, and your children will become orphans.

If you loan money to my people, to the poor who live beside you, do not act as a moneylender to them, charging them interest.

If you take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, you must return it before sunset, for it may be your neighbor's only warmth in the night – what else would your neighbor sleep in? If your neighbor appeals to me, I will hear, for I am the Compassionate One.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

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

Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake.

You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. In this way, you have become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

The word of Christ has been resounding from you — and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?”

Jesus answered,

“You must love the Most High God
with all your heart,
with all your soul and
with all your mind.’

“That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Malachi 1:14 – 2:2, 8-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

A great ruler am I, says the God of Hosts,
and my name will be feared among the nations.
If you do not lay it to heart,
to give glory to my Name, says the God of Hosts,
I will send a curse upon you
and of your blessing I will make a curse.
Yes, I have already cursed it,
because you do not lay it to heart.
You have turned aside from the way,
and have caused many to falter by your instruction;
you have made void the covenant of Levi,
says the God of Hosts.
I, therefore, have made you contemptible
and base before all the people,
since you do not keep my ways,
but show partiality in your decisions.
Have we not all the one God?
Has not the one God created us?
Why then do we break faith with each other,
violating the covenant of our ancestors?

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

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

While we were with you, we were as gentle as any nursing mother caring for her little ones. So well disposed were we toward you, in fact, that we were willing to share with you not only the Good News, but our very lives as well — you had become that dear to us.

Let us remind you, sisters and brothers, of our toil and hardship; we worked night and

day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the Good News of God to you. And we constantly thank God for the way you received the words we preached to you, not as our word but as the word of God, which it really was. And it changed your lives when you believed it.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, “The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; therefore, perform every observance they tell you. But do not follow their example; even they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others’ shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.

“All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues.

They love respectful greetings in public and being called ‘Rabbi.’

“But as for you, avoid the title ‘Rabbi.’ For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. And do not call anyone on earth your ‘Mother’ or ‘Father.’ You have only one parent — our loving God in heaven. Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader — the Messiah.

“The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but 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 until 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 saying: “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 it has not been revealed
what we are to become in the future.
We know that when it comes to light,
we will be like God,
for we will see God as God really is.

All who keep this hope keep themselves pure,
just as Christ is pure.

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

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 affliction will ever touch them.
To the eyes of fools, they seem to be dead;
Their departure will be interpreted as a defeat
and their going away will be considered a disaster –
but they have found peace.
For though, to mortals, they may have suffered punishment,
their hope is in life everlasting,
and after a time of trial, they will receive great blessings,
because YHWH has tested them, and found them worthy.
YHWH purified them like gold in a crucible and found them acceptable
as a whole burnt offering on the altar.
When their time of judgment comes, they will shine
and will sweep over the world like sparks through the chaff.
They will be appointed as judges and leaders over all nations and peoples,
and the Holy One will be their Sovereign forever.
Those who have put their trust in YHWH will find out that this is all true,
and those who are faithful will dwell in YHWH's love.
These are YHWH's chosen ones, and grace and mercy belong to them.

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 SOUL'S 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 hasn’t 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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
easily discerned by those who love Her,
and is found by those who seek Her.
She reveals herself
to all who desire to know Her.
Those who rise early to search for Her
will not grow weary of the journey,
for they will find Her seated at the door of their own homes.
To ponder Her is the fullness of Wisdom
and to be loyal in Her pursuit
is the shortcut to freedom from care.
She searches the far ends of the earth
for those who are worthy of Her,
and She appears to them on their daily path with kindness,
meeting them halfway in all their journeys.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Sisters and brothers, we want you to be clear about those who sleep in death; otherwise you might yield to grief and lose all hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Jesus all who have fallen asleep believing in Jesus. We are speaking to you now just as if Jesus were speaking to you: we who live, who survive until Jesus returns, will have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep.

No, Jesus will personally come down from heaven with a shout, at the sound of the archangel's voice and the trumpet of God, and those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air—and thenceforth we will be with Jesus unceasingly. Therefore, console one another with these words.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to the disciples, “The kingdom of God could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. Five of them were wise, five were foolish. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

“At midnight there was a cry: ‘Here comes the bridal party! Let us go out to meet them!’ Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for

our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there will not be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

“While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. When the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I do not know you.’

“So stay awake, for you do not know the day or the hour.”

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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

A perfect love—who can find her?
She is valued far beyond pearls,
 instilling confidence in her partner's heart,
 providing no small profit,
Bringing advantage and not hurt
 all the days of their lives.
Always busy with wool and with flax,
 doing her work with willing hands;
 setting her hands to the distaff,
 fingers grasping the spindle.
Holding out a hand to the poor,
 greeting the needy with open arms.
Charm deceives, and beauty flees;
 but those who reverence YHWH
 are deserving of praise.
Give them a share in what their hands have worked for,
 and let their works tell their praises at the city gates.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you do not need me to tell you anything — you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, “At last we have peace and security,” then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape.

But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you all are children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the darkness or the night. So let us not be asleep as others are — let us be awake and sober!

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to the disciples, “Again, it is like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one’s ability.

Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

“After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, ‘You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.’

The landowner said, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!’

“The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional

two, saying, ‘You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.’

“The landowner said to this one, ‘Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!’

“Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward, and said to the landowner, ‘Knowing your ruthlessness—you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter—and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.’

“The landowner exclaimed, ‘You worthless, lazy lout! You know that I reap where I do not sow and gather where I do not scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand.’

“Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.’”

*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 which 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 Seraph 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 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!

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

For YHWH says this: It is YHWH who speaks. I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends the flock when the sheep have been scattered, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the

Most High. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says YHWH, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

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

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

For since death came through one human being, in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one human being. Just as in the first human all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first fruits, and then the faithful when Christ comes again. After that will come the end,

when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Creator, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under Christ's foot, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. When, finally, everything has been subjected to Christ, Christ will in turn be subjected to the God who had subjected everything to Christ—and so God will be in all.

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

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples, “At the appointed time, the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

“The ruler will say to those on the right: ‘Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your

nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did it for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’

“Then the ruler will say to those on the left, ‘Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.’ Then they in turn will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?’ The answer will come, ‘The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.’ They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life.”

The Good News of Salvation!

R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!



RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: CYCLE A

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 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 gateways, Jerusalem.

R: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "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: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of Our God!"

They come to praise Our God's name, I as God ordered Israel,
Here where the tribunals of justice are, / the royal tribunals of David.

R: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of Our God!"

Pray for peace in Jerusalem, / "Prosperity to your houses!
Peace inside your city walls! / Prosperity to your palaces!"

R: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of Our God!"

Since all are my neighbors and friends, / I say, "Peace be with you!"
Since Our God lives here, / I pray for your happiness.

R: How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of Our God!"

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.
Whose right hand and whose holy arm / have brought salvation.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

The Creator has made salvation known, / has shown justice to the nations,
And has remembered in truth and love / the house of Israel.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of Our God.
Shout to the Most High all the earth, / ring out your joy.

R: Sing to Our God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 72

Response: Justice will flower in their days, and profound peace,
till the moon is no more.

O God, with Your judgment and with Your justice, / endow the leaders.
They will govern Your people with justice / and Your afflicted ones with judgment.

R: Justice will flower in their days, and profound peace, till the moon is no more.

Justice will flower in their days, / and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May they rule from sea to sea, / and from the river to the ends of the earth.

R: Justice will flower in their days, and profound peace, till the moon is no more.

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 for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor they will save.

R: Justice will flower in their days, and profound peace, till the moon is no more.

May their name be blessed forever; / as long as the sun their name will remain.
In them will all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations will proclaim their happiness.

R: Justice will flower in their days, and profound peace, till the moon is no more.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 146

Response: With divine retribution, you are saved.

Adonai, You keep faith forever, / secure justice for the oppressed,
You give food to the hungry. / Adonai, You set captives free.

R: With divine retribution, you are saved.

You give sight to the blind, / You raise up those that were bowed down
And love the just. / You protect strangers.

R: With divine retribution, you are saved.

The orphan and the widow You sustain, / but the way of the wicked You thwart.
The Most High will reign forever;
Your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R: With divine retribution, you are saved.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Psalm 24

Response: And the Holy One will come in – Our God, the glorious One.

The world and all that is in it belong to Our God, / the earth and all who live on it.
Our God built it on the deep waters beneath the earth,
And laid its foundations in the ocean depths.

R: And the Holy One will come in – Our God, the glorious One.

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: And the Holy One will come in – Our God, the glorious One.

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 Our God.

R: And the Holy One will come in – Our God, the glorious One.

CHRISTMAS: MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 25 — Psalm 96

Response: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Sing to Our God a new song! / Sing to Our God, all the earth!
Sing to Our God, / bless God's name.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ

Proclaim God's salvation day after day,
Tell of God's glory among the nations, / tell God's marvels to every people.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, / let the sea thunder and all that it holds,
Let the fields exult and all that is in them, / let all the woodland trees cry out for joy.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

They will exult at the presence of Our God, / for God comes to judge the earth.
To judge the world with justice / and the nations with truth.

R: Today is born our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

CHRISTMAS: MASS AT DAWN, 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: MASS DURING THE 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 ways.

Happy are those who fear Our God / and walk in God's ways!
You will eat what your hands have worked for. / Happy will you be and favored.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

You will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house;
Your children like shoots of the olive / around your table.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

Indeed thus will be blessed / the one who fears Our God.
May the Most High bless you from Zion / all the days of your life.

R: Happy are those who fear Our God, who walk in God's ways.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD / January 1 — Psalm 67

Response: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

God, show us kindness and bless us, / and make Your face smile on us!
For then the earth will acknowledge Your ways / and all the nations will know of Your power to save.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

Let the nations shout and sing for joy, / since You dispense true justice to the world;
On earth You rule the nations.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

Let the nations praise You, O God, / let all the peoples praise You!
May God bless us, /and let God be feared to the very ends of the earth.

R: May God, who is merciful, bless us.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — Psalm 147

Response: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us.

Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem; / praise Your God, O Zion.
For God has strengthened the bars of your gates;
And has blessed your children within you.

R: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us

God has granted peace in your borders, / and with the best of wheat fills you.
God sends forth a command to the earth; / swiftly runs the word.

R: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us

God has proclaimed a word to Jacob, / statutes and ordinances to Israel.
God has not done thus for any other nation;
Ordinances God has not made known to them. Alleluia.

R: The Word became flesh and made a dwelling among us

EPIPHANY / JANUARY 6 — Psalm 72

Response; O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

O God, with Your judgment and with Your justice, / endow Your leaders.
They will govern Your people with justice / and Your afflicted ones with judgment.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

Justice will flower in their days, / and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May they rule from sea to sea, / and from the river to the ends of the earth.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts; / Arabia and Sheba will bring tribute.
All other rulers will pay homage to them, / all the nations will serve them.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

For they will rescue the poor when they cry out,
And the afflicted when they have no one to help them.

They will have pity on the lowly and the poor;
The lives of the poor they will save.

R: O God, every nation on earth will adore You.

PRESENTATION OF JESUS / FEBRUARY 2 — Psalm 24

Response: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Fling wide the gates, / open the ancient doors,
And the Holy One will come in!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty,
The Most High, / victorious in battle!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Fling wide the gates, / open the ancient doors,
And the Holy One will come in!

R: Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

Who is this Holy One? / The Most High, the glorious One.

R. Who is this Holy One? Our God, strong and mighty!

BAPTISM OF JESUS / SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY — Psalm 29

Response: Our God will bless the people with peace.

Ascribe to Our God, O heavenly beings, / ascribe to the Most High glory and strength.
Ascribe to Our God the glory due God's Name; / worship the Most High in holy array.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

The voice of Our God is upon the waters; / the God of glory thunders upon the waters.
The voice of God is powerful, / the voice of the Most High is full of majesty.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

The voice of God is powerful, / and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"
The Most High sits in judgment over the flood; / God sits in judgment forever.

R: Our God will bless the people with peace.

ASH WEDNESDAY — Psalm 51

Response: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your goodness, / in Your great tenderness wipe away my faults;
Wash me clean of my guilt, / purify me from my sin.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

For I am well aware of my faults, / I have my sin constantly in mind,
Having sinned against none other than You, / having done what You regard as wrong.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

God, create a clean heart in me, / put into me a new and constant spirit,
Do not banish me from Your presence, / do not deprive me of Your Holy Spirit.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

Be my savior again, renew my joy, / keep my spirit steady and willing;
Open my lips, / and my mouth will speak out Your praise.

R: Have mercy, O God, in Your goodness.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 51

Response: Have mercy on me, 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 on me, O God, in Your goodness.

For I am well aware of my faults, / I have my sin constantly in mind.
Having sinned against none other than You, / having done what You regard as wrong.

R: Have mercy on me, 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 on me, 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 on me, O God, in Your goodness.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 33

Response: The Creator loves justice and right.

For the word of the Creator is faithful, / and all God's works are to be trusted.
The Creator loves justice and right / and fills the earth with love.

R: The Creator loves justice and right.

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: The Creator loves justice and right.

Our soul is waiting for God, / our help and our shield.
In the Creator our hearts find joy. / We trust in God's holy Name.
May Your love be upon us, O God, / as we place all our hope in You.

R: The Creator loves justice and right.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — 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.

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Psalm 130

Response: With You are kindness and plenteous redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to You, O God; / God, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive / to my voice in supplication.

R: With You are kindness and plenteous redemption.

If You, O God, mark iniquities, / who can stand?
But with You is forgiveness, / that You may be revered.

R: With You are kindness and plenteous redemption.

I trust in You, O God, / my soul waits for You, O God,
More than sentinels wait for the dawn. / Let Israel wait for God.

R: With You are kindness and plenteous redemption.

For with You are kindness / and plenteous redemption;
God will redeem Israel / from all its iniquities.

R: With You are kindness and plenteous redemption.

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 your God save you!
If your God is your friend, let your God rescue you!"

R: My God my God, why have You deserted me?

A pack of dogs surrounds me, / a gang of villains closes me in.
They tie me hand and foot / and leave me lying in the dust of death.

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

They divide my garments among them / and cast lots for my clothes.
Do not stand aside, Adonai. / O my strength, come quickly to my help.

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

Then I will proclaim Your Name, / praise You in full assembly:
You who fear the Most High, praise God! / Entire race of Israel, revere God!

R: My God, my God, why have You deserted me?

HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER — Psalm 116

Response: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

What return can I make to Our God / for all this goodness to me?
I will offer libations to my savior, / invoking the Name of the Most High.

R: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

The death of the devout / is precious in Your eyes.
Adonai, I am your faithful one, / your faithful one,
Born of a pious mother: / you undo my fetters.

R: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ

I will offer You the thanksgiving sacrifice, / invoking Your Name, Adonai.
I will pay what I vowed to You; / may the whole nation be present.

R: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY — Psalm 31

Response: Abba-God! / I place my life in Your hands.

In You, Adonai, I take shelter; / never let me be disgraced.
In Your righteousness deliver me,
Into Your hands I commit my spirit, / You have redeemed me, Adonai.

R: Abba-God! / I place my life in Your hands.

To every one of my oppressors I am contemptible, / loathsome to my neighbors,
To my friends a thing of fear. / Those who see me in the street hurry past me;
I am forgotten, / as good as dead in their hearts, something discarded.

R: Abba-God! / I place my life in Your hands.

But I put my trust in You, Adonai, / I say, "You are my God."
My days are in Your hands, / rescue me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.

R: Abba-God! / I place my life in Your hands.

Let Your face smile on your faithful one, / save me in Your love.
Be strong, let your heart be bold, / all you who hope in Our God!

R: Abba-God! / I place my life in Your hands.

EASTER VIGIL

Reading 1 — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!
Clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in a robe of light.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You fixed the earth on its foundations, / unshakable forever and ever;
You wrapped it in the deep as with a robe, / the waters overtopping the mountains.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You set springs gushing in ravines, / running down between the mountains,
Near there the birds of the air make their nests / and sing among the branches.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

From Your palace You water the uplands / until the ground has had all that Your heavens have to offer.
You make fresh grass grow for cattle / and those plants made use of by Your people.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Adonai, what variety You have created, / arranging everything so wisely!
Earth is completely full of things You have made: / Bless Our God, my soul.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Reading 2 — Psalm 15

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.

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 in 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, O God!
You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance; I will give thanks to You forever.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

Reading 5 — Isaiah 12

Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior, / I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and courage is Our God, / who has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water / from the springs of salvation.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to Our God, / acclaim God's Name.
Make Our God's deeds known among the nations, / proclaim how exalted is God's name.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to Our God for the glorious achievement,
Let this be known throughout the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Reading 6 — Psalm 19

Response: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your Law, Adonai, is perfect, / it revives the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your precepts, Adonai, are right, / they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear, / it gives light to the eyes.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Fear of You, Adonai, is holy, / abiding forever.
Your decrees are truth /and all of them just.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

They are more desirable than gold, / than the purest of gold.
And sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

EASTER VIGIL — *continued*

Reading 7 — Psalm 42

Response: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, / the God of my life;
When can I enter and see / the face of God?

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

How would I lead the rejoicing crowd / into the house of God?
Amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, / the throng wild with joy.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Send forth Your light and Your fidelity; / they will lead me;
And bring me to Your holy mountain, / to Your dwelling place.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Then I will go in to the altar of God, / the God of my gladness and joy;
Then I will give You thanks upon the harp, / O God, my God!

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

EASTER SUNDAY — Psalm 118

Response: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

I give thanks to You, Adonai, for You are good, / Your love is everlasting!
Let the house of Israel say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Our God's right hand is winning, / Our God's right hand is wreaking havoc!
No, I will not die, I will live / to recite the deeds of the Most High.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

It was the stone rejected by the builders / that proved to be the keystone.
This is Our God's doing / and it is wonderful to see.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 118

Response: Give thanks to Our God, who is good, whose love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"
Let the house of Aaron say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"
Let the house of 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.

R: Give thanks to Our God, who is good, whose love is everlasting.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 16

Response: You will show us the path that leads to life.

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."
You, Adonai, are all I have, / and You give me all I need: / my life is in Your hands.

R: You will show us the path that leads to life.

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 will show us the path that leads to life.

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 will show us the path that leads to life.

You will show me the path that leads to life;
Your presence fills me with joy, / and Your help delights me forever.

R: You will show us the path that leads to life.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — 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.

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 33

Response: The Creator loves justice and right.

Ring out your joy to the Creator, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Creator upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing songs.
R: The Creator loves justice and right.

For the word of the Creator is faithful, / and all God's works are to be trusted.
The Creator loves justice and right / and fills the earth with love.
R: The Creator loves justice and right.

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: The Creator loves justice and right.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 66

Response: Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth.

Make a joyful sound to God, / all the earth;
Sing the glory of God's Name; / give glorious praise!
R: Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth.

All the earth worships You, / and sings praises to You, sings praise to Your Name.
Come and see what God has done: / tremendous are God's deeds.
R: Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth.

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: Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
And I will tell you what the Holy One has done for me.
Blessed by God, who has not rejected my prayer
Or removed steadfast love from me!
R: Make a joyful sound to God, all the earth.

ASCENSION THURSDAY — Psalm 47

Response: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.

All you people, clap your hands; / raise a shout to God with a triumphant note.
For the Most High is awe-inspiring, / glorious over the whole earth.
R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.

God has ascended with a shout, / with trumpet peals.
Sing praise to God, sing praise, / sing praise to God, sing praise.
R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.

For God is Most High over all the earth, / sing praise to God, sing praise.
God rules over all the nations; / God sits upon the holy judgment seat.
R: Our God ascends to the judgment seat with shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for Our God.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — Psalm 27

Response: I believe that I will see the goodness of Our God in the land of the living.

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: I believe that I will see the goodness of Our God in the land of the living.

One thing have I asked of You, Adonai,
That I may dwell in Your house / all the days of my life,
To behold Your beauty / and to inquire in the Temple.

R: I believe that I will see the goodness of Our God in the land of the living.

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: I believe that I will see the goodness of Our God in the land of the living.

PENTECOST VIGIL — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!
Clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in a robe of light.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Adonai, what variety You have created, / arranging everything so wisely!
Earth is completely full of things You have made: / Bless Our God, my soul!

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

All creatures depend on You / to feed them throughout the year;
You provide the food they eat, / with generous hand You satisfy their hunger.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You turn Your face away, they suffer;
You stop their breath, they die and return to dust.
You give breath, fresh life begins. / You keep renewing the world.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

PENTECOST — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!
Adonai, what variety You have created,
Earth is completely full of the things You have made.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You turn Your face away, they suffer;
You stop their breath, they die and return to dust.
You give breath, fresh life begins, / You keep renewing the world.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Glory forever to the Most High! / May Our God find joy in all creation.
May these reflections of mine give God pleasure / as much as the Most High gives me.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

TRINITY SUNDAY — Deuteronomy 3

Response: Be praised and extolled forever.

May You be praised, O God of our ancestors, / praised and extolled forever.
Blessed be Your glorious and holy Name, / praised and extolled forever.

R: Be praised and extolled forever.

May You be blessed / in the Temple of Your sacred glory.
Exalted and glorified / above all else forever.

R: Be praised and extolled forever.

Blessed are you on Your throne during Your reign.
Praised and exalted above all else forever.

R: Be praised and extolled forever.

Blessed, You fathomer of the great depths,
Seated in judgment on the cherubim, / praised and glorified above all forever.

R: Be praised and extolled forever.

Blessed are you in heaven, / exalted and glorified above all forever.

R: Be praised and glorified forever.

CORPUS CHRISTI — Psalm 147

Response: Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem.

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: Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem.

God has granted peace in your borders, / and with the best of wheat fills you.
God sends forth a command to the earth; / swiftly runs the word.

R: Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem.

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: Glorify the Creator, O Jerusalem.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 40

Response: Here I am, / Adonai, I come to do Your will.

I waited and waited for You, Adonai,
Now at last You have stooped to me / and heard my cry for help.

R: Here I am, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, I opened my ears,
You asked no burnt offering or sacrifice for sins;
Then I said, "Here I am! I am coming!"

R: Here I am, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

In the scroll of the book am I not commanded / to obey Your will?
My God, I have always loved Your Law / from the depths of my being.

R: Here I am, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

I have always proclaimed the righteousness / of Our God in the great assembly;
Nor do I mean to stop proclaiming, / as You know well.

R: Here I am, Adonai, I come to do Your will.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — 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.

One thing have I asked of You, Adonai,

That I may dwell in Your house / all the days of my life,

To behold Your beauty / and to inquire in the Temple.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 146

Response: Happy the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs.

You who keeps faith forever, / secures justice for the oppressed,

Gives food to the hungry. / Adonai, You set captives free.

R: Happy the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs.

Adonai, You give sight to the blind.

You raise up those that were bowed down /and love the just.

You protect strangers.

R: Happy the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs.

The orphan and the widow You sustain, / but the way of the wicked You thwart, Adonai,

You will reign forever; / Your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia!

R: Happy the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 112

Response: For the upright, Our God shines like a lamp in the dark.

For the upright, Our God shines like a lamp in the dark,
God is merciful, tenderhearted, virtuous.
Interest is not charged by these good people,
They are honest in all their dealings.

R: For the upright, Our God shines like a lamp in the dark.

Kept safe by virtue, they are ever steadfast,
And leave an imperishable memory behind them;
With constant heart and confidence in Our God,
They need never fear bad news.

R: For the upright, Our God shines like a lamp in the dark.

Steadfast in heart, they overcome their fears; / in the end they will triumph over their enemies.
Quick to be generous, / they give to the poor; / their righteousness can never change,
People such as this will always be honored.

R: For the upright, Our God shines like a lamp in the dark.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 119

Response: Happy are they who walk in Your Law.

Happy are they whose way is blameless, / who walk in Your Law.
Happy are they who observe Your decrees, / who seek You with all their heart.

R: Happy are they who walk in Your Law.

You have commanded that Your precepts / be diligently kept.
Oh, that I might be firm in the ways / of keeping Your statutes!

R: Happy are they who walk in Your Law.

Be good to Your faithful one, / that I may live and keep Your words.
Open my eyes, / that I may consider the wonders of Your Law.

R: Happy are they who walk in Your Law.

Instruct me, O God, in the way of Your statutes, / that I may exactly observe them.
Give me discernment, that I may observe Your Law / and keep it with all my heart.

R: Happy are they who walk in Your Law.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 103

Response: Our God is tender and compassionate.

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 tender and compassionate.

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 tender and compassionate.

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 tender and compassionate.

Our God takes our sins farther away / than the east is from the west.

As tenderly as parents treat their children,

So the Most High treats those who fear God.

R: Our God is tender and compassionate.

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 62

Response: In God alone be at rest, my soul.

In God alone is my soul at rest; / my help comes from God,

Who alone is my rock, my stronghold, / my fortress: I stand firm.

R: In God alone be at rest, my soul.

In God alone be at rest, my soul; / for my hope comes from God,

Who alone is my rock, my stronghold, / my fortress: I stand firm.

R: In God alone be at rest, my soul.

In God is my safety and glory, / the rock of my strength.

Take refuge in God, all you people.

Trusting at all times, / pour out your hearts before our Refuge.

R: In God alone be at rest, my soul.

NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 31

Response: For You are my rock, my fortress.

In You, Adonai, I take shelter; / never let me be disgraced.

In Your righteousness deliver me, / rescue me, turn Your ear to me, make haste!

R: For You are my rock, my fortress.

Be a sheltering rock for me, / a walled fortress to save me.

For You are my rock, my fortress; / for the sake of Your Name, guide me, lead me!

R: For You are my rock, my fortress.

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: For you are my rock, my fortress.

TENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 50

Response: To those who order their way aright,
I will show the salvation of God.

The mighty One, God our Helper, / speaks and summons the earth

From the rising of the sun to its setting.

I do not reprove you for your sacrifices;

Your burnt offerings are continually before me.

R: To those who order their way aright / I will show the salvation of God.

If I were hungry, I would not tell you; / for the world and all that is in it is mine.

Do I eat the flesh of bulls, / or drink the blood of goats?"

R: To those who order their way aright / I will show the salvation of God.

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, / and pay your vows to the Most High;

And call upon me in the day of trouble; / I will deliver you, and you will glorify me."

R: To those who order their way aright / I will show the salvation of God.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 100

Response: We are God's people and 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 and the sheep of God's pasture.

Know that Our God is good!

The Most High 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 and 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 and the sheep of God's pasture.

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 69

Response: O God, in Your great kindness answer me.

For Your sake I bear insult, / and shame covers my face.

I have become an outcast to my ancestors, / a stranger to my parents and children.

R: O God, in Your great kindness answer me.

But I pray to You / for the time of Your favor, O God!

In Your great kindness answer me / with Your constant help.

Answer me, God, for bounteous is Your kindness;

In Your great mercy turn toward me.

R: O God, in Your great kindness answer me.

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.

Let the heavens and the earth praise God, / the seas and whatever moves in them.

R: O God, in Your great kindness answer me.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 89

Response: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

I will sing the story of Your love, / Adonai, forever;
I will proclaim Your faithfulness / to all generations.
Your true love is firm as the ancient earth, / Your faithfulness fixed as the heavens.
R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

Happy the people who have learned to acclaim You, / who walk in the light of Your presence!
In Your Name they will rejoice all day long; / Your righteousness will lift them up.
R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

You are the strength in which they glory;
Through Your favor we hold our heads high.
Our God is our shield; / the holy One of Israel is our ruler.
R: I will sing the story of Your love, Adonai, forever.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 145

Response: I will extol You, O God.

I will extol You, O my God, / and I will bless Your Name forever and ever.
Everyday will I bless You, / and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.
R: I will extol You, O 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 extol you, O 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 extol You, O God.

Adonai, You are just in all Your ways / and holy in all Your works.
You lift up all who are falling / and raise up all who are bowed down.
R: I will extol You, O God.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 65

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You have visited the land and watered it; / greatly have You enriched it.
God's watercourses filled; / You have prepared the grain.

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Thus have You prepared the land: / drenching its furrows,
Breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, / Blessing its yield.

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You have crowned the year with bounty,
And Your paths overflow with a rich harvest;
The untilled meadows overflow with it, / and rejoicing clothes the hills.

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

The fields are garmented with flocks /and the valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for glory.

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 86

Response: Adonai, You are good and forgiving.

Adonai, You are good and forgiving, / full of constant love for all who pray to You.
Listen to my prayer; / hear my cries for help.

R: Adonai, You are good and forgiving.

All the nations You have created / will come and bow down to You.
They will praise Your greatness,
Because only You, O God, are mighty; / only You do wonderful things.

R: Adonai, You are good and forgiving.

Adonai, You are a merciful and loving God,
Slow to anger, always kind and faithful.
Turn to me and have mercy on me; / strengthen me and save me.

R: Adonai, You are good and forgiving.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 119

Response: I love Your commands, O God.

I have said, O God, that my part / is to keep Your words.
The law of Your mouth is to me more precious / than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
R: I love Your commands, O God.

Let Your kindness comfort me / according to Your promise to Your faithful ones.
Let Your compassion come to me that I may live, / for Your law is my delight.
R: I love Your commands, O God.

For I love Your command / more than gold, however fine.
For in all Your precepts I go forward; / every false way I hate.
R: I love Your commands, O God.

Wonderful are Your decrees; / therefore I observe them.
The revelation of Your words sheds light, / giving understanding to the simple.
R: I love Your commands, O God.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 145

Response: Adonai, You are gracious and merciful.

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: Adonai, You are gracious and merciful.

The eyes of all look hopefully to You, / and You give them their food in due season;
You open Your hand / and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
R: Adonai, You are gracious and merciful.

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: Adonai, You are gracious and merciful.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 85

Response: Adonai, justice will march before You.

I will hear what You, O God, have to say, / a voice that speaks of peace,
Your help is near for those who fear You / and Your glory will dwell in our land.

R: Adonai, justice will march before You.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness will spring from the earth / and justice looks down from heaven.

R: Adonai, justice will march before You.

Adonai, You will make us prosper / and our earth will yield its fruit.
Justice will march before You / and peace will follow Your steps.

R: Adonai, justice will march before You.

ASSUMPTION VIGIL: AUGUST 14 — Psalm 132

Response: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, You and the Ark of Your holiness.

At Ephrata we heard of the Ark, / we found it in the plains of Yearim.
Let us go to the place of God's dwelling; / let us go to kneel at Our God's footstool.

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, / You and the Ark of Your holiness.

Your priests will be clothed with holiness; / Your faithful will ring out their joy.
For the sake of David Your faithful one, / do not reject Your anointed.

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, / You and the Ark of Your holiness.

For Our God has chosen Zion / and has desired it for a dwelling;
"This is my resting-place forever, / here have I chosen to live."

R: Adonai, go up to the place of Your rest, / You and the Ark of Your holiness.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION — Psalm 45

Response: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

At your right hand stands the queen / in gold of Ophir.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Hear, O daughter, consider, and incline your ear

Forget your people and your ancestor's home.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

And the sovereign will desire your beauty.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

With joy and gladness they are led along / as they enter the palace of the sovereign.

R: At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 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 true 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.

Let the nations praise You, O God, / let all the nations praise You!

May God bless us, and let God be feared to the very ends of the earth.

R: Let the nations praise You, O God.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 138

Response: Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

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: Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

I praise Your Name / because of Your constant love and faithfulness.
You answered me when I called to You; / with Your strength You strengthened me.

R: Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

Even though You are so high above, / You care for the lowly,
And the proud cannot hide from You.

Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

R: Adonai, Your love is constant forever. / Complete the work that You have begun.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 63

Response: My soul thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O God.

TWENTY-THIRD 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.

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as in the day 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-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 103

Response: Our God is tender and compassionate, slow to anger, most loving.

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 tender and compassionate, slow to anger, most loving.

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 tender and compassionate, slow to anger, most loving.

Whose indignation does not last forever,

And whose resentment lasts for a short time only;

Our God never treats us, never punishes us / as our guilt and our sins deserve.

R: 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;

The Most High takes our sins farther away / than the east is from the west.

R: Our God is tender and compassionate, slow to anger, most loving.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 145

Response: O God, You are near to all who call upon You.

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: O God, You are near to all who call upon You.

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: O God, You are near to all who call upon You.

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: O God, You are near to all who call upon You.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 25

Response: Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai.

Make me to 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: Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai.

Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai, / and of Your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth, /or my transgressions;
According to Your steadfast love remember me, / for Your goodness' sake, Adonai!

R: Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai.

Good and upright is Adonai, / instructing sinners in the way.
Leading the humble in what is right, / and teaching the humble the way.

R: Be mindful of Your mercy, Adonai.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 80

Response: The vineyard of Our God is the house of Israel.

There was a vine: / you uprooted it from Egypt;
To plant it, / You drove out other nations.

R: The vineyard of Our God is the house of Israel.

Why have You destroyed its fences? / Now anyone can go and steal its grapes,
The forest boar can ravage it / and wild animals eat it.

R: The vineyard of Our God is the house of Israel.

Please, Adonai Sabaoth, relent! / Look down from heaven, look at this vine.
Visit it, / protect what Your own right hand has planted.

R: The vineyard of Our God is the house of Israel.

We will never turn from You again; / our life renewed, we will invoke Your Name.
Adonai, Sabaoth, bring us back, / let Your face smile on us and we will be safe.

R: The vineyard of Our God is the house of Israel.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 23

Response: I will dwell in Your house for years to come.

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: I will dwell in Your house for years to come.

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: I will dwell in Your house for years to come.

You spread the table before me / in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil; / my cup overflows.

R: I will dwell in Your house for years to come.

Only goodness and kindness follow me / all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in Your house / for years to come.

R: I will dwell in Your house for years to come.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 96

Response: Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

Sing to Our God a new song! / Sing to Our God, all the earth!
Tell of God's glory among the nations, / tell God's marvels to every people.

R: Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

Our God is great, loud must be God's praise,
Our God is to be feared beyond all gods.
Nothingness, all the gods of the nations. / Our God made the heavens.

R: Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

Pay tribute to Our God, families of the peoples,
Tribute to the God of glory and power.
Bring out the offering, bear it before God.

R: Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

Worship Our God in the sacred courts, / Tremble before Our God all the earth!
Say among the nations, / "The Most High is our Rock!"

Firm has Our God made the world, and unshakable
Our God will judge each nation with strict justice.

R: Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 18

Response: I love You, O God, my strength.

I love You, O God, my strength.
You are my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
My shield, and the horn of my salvation, / my stronghold.
I call upon You, who are worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

Our God lives; and blessed be my rock, / And exalted be the God of my salvation.
Great triumph You give to Your leader,
And show steadfast love to Your anointed.

R: I love You, O God, my strength.

All SAINTS: NOVEMBER 1 — Psalm 24

Response: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

The world and all that is in it belong to Our God, / the earth and all who live on it.
Our God built it on the deep waters beneath the earth, / and laid its foundations in the ocean depths.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

Who has the right to go up Our God's hill?
Who is allowed to enter Our God's Temple?
Those who are pure in act and in thought,
Who do not worship idols, or make false promises.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

Our God will bless them. / God, their savior, will declare them innocent.
Such are the people who come to God, / who come into the presence of God.

R: O God, this is the people who long to see Your face.

All SOULS: NOVEMBER 2 — Psalm 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 131

Response: In You, Adonai, I have found my peace.

Adonai, my heart has no lofty ambitions, / my eyes do not look too high.
I am not concerned with great affairs / or marvels beyond my scope.

R: In You, Adonai, I have found my peace.

Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet / like a child in its mothers arms,
As content as a child that has been weaned.

R: In You, Adonai, I have found my peace.

Israel, rely on Our God, / now and always!

R: In You, Adonai, I have found my peace.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 63

Response: My soul thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O 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 thirsts for You, O God.

Thus will I bless You while I live; / lifting up my arms, 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 thirsts for You, O God.

I will remember You upon my couch,
And through the night watches I will meditate on You:
That You are my help, / and in the shadow of Your wings I shout for joy.

R: My soul thirsts for You, O God.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — Psalm 128

Response: Blessed are those who fear the Most High.

O blessed are those who fear the Most High / and walk in God's ways!
You will eat what your hands have worked for. / Happy will you be and favored.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Most High.

You will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house;
Your children like the shoots of the olive tree / around your table.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Most High.

Indeed thus will be blessed / the one who fears Our God.
May Our God bless you from Zion / all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children in a happy Jerusalem! / On Israel, peace!

R: Blessed are those who fear the Most High.

THANKSGIVING DAY — Psalm 67

Response: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

O God, show kindness and bless us, / and make Your face smile on us!
For then the earth will acknowledge Your ways
And all the nations will know of Your power to save.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

Let the nations praise You, O God, / let all the nations praise You.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

The soil has given its harvest, / God, Our God, has blessed us.
May God bless us, and let God be feared / to the very ends of the earth.

R: The earth has yielded its fruit; Our God has blessed us.

Response: 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.

R: Adonai, You are my shepherd; I have no wants.

Beside restful waters You lead me; / You refresh my soul.

You guide me in right paths / for Your Name's sake.

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.