



Chaldean Catholic Mission

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الكنيسة الكلدانية في بريطانيا



القراءات الطقسية حسب ترتيب الكنيسة الكلدانية  
**Readings of the Liturgical Year**

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## CHALDEAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Calendar is divided into seasons of about seven weeks each, called *Shawu'i*; these are Advent (called *Subara*, "Annunciation"), Ephiphany, Lent, Easter, the Apostles, summer, "Elias and the Cross", "Moses", and the "Dedication" (*Qudash idta*). "Moses" and the "Dedication" have only four weeks each.

The Sundays are generally named after the season in which they occur, "Third Sunday of Moses", "Fourth Sunday of the Annunciation", etc., though sometimes the name changes in the middle of a season. Most of the saints "Memorials" (*dukhrani*), occur on the Fridays between Christmas and Lent.

Christmas, Ephiphany, the Assumption, and about thirty smaller days on fixed days. There are many of shorter fasting days besides the Lent; the three days after the second Sunday of the Nativity; the Fast of the Virgins, after the first Sunday of the Epiphany; the Rogation of the Nineties, fifty days before Easter; the Fast of Our Lady from the first to the fourteenth of August. The Fast of the *albaotha* commemorates the repentance of Nineveh at the preaching of Jonas.



## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of Advent**

### **A reading from Genesis Chapter 17**

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless.

2 Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly."

3 When Abram prostrated himself, God continued to speak to him:

4 "My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations.

5 No longer shall you be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a host of nations.

6 I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you.

7 I will maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."

9 God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages.

10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.

11 Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me.

12 Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood.

13 Yes, both the house born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact.

14 If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

### **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Ephesians Chapter 5**

21 Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her

26 to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,  
27 that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot  
or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
28 So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He  
who loves his wife loves himself.  
29 For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it,  
even as Christ does the church,  
33 In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the  
wife should respect her husband  
6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your  
father and mother- which is the first commandment with a promise- that it  
may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.  
Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the  
training and instruction of the Lord.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Chapter 1**

1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that  
have been fulfilled among us,  
2 just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers  
of the word have handed them down to us,  
3 I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to  
write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus,  
4 so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have  
received.  
5 In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named  
Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the  
daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.  
6 Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the  
commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly.  
7 But they had no child, <sup>4</sup> because Elizabeth was barren and both were  
advanced in years.  
8 Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God,  
9 according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot  
to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.  
10 Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at  
the hour of the incense offering,  
11 the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the  
altar of incense.  
12 Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.  
13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your  
prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you  
shall name him John.  
14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

15 for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb,

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Advent**

### **A reading from Isaiah 43:14-44:5**

14 Thus says the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sakes I send to Babylon; I will lower all the bars, and the Chaldeans shall cry out in lamentation.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

16 Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters,

17 Who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, Till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick.

18 Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not;

19 See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers.

20 Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, For I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink,

21 The people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

22 Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob, for you grew weary of me, O Israel.

23

bring me sheep for your holocausts, nor honor me with your sacrifices. I did not exact from you the service of offerings, nor weary you for frankincense.

24 You did not buy me sweet cane for money, nor fill me with the fat of your sacrifices; Instead, you burdened me with your sins, and wearied me with your crimes.

25 It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more.

26 Would you have me remember, have us come to trial? Speak up, prove your innocence!

27 Your first father sinned; your spokesmen rebelled against me

28 Till I repudiated the holy gates, put Jacob under the ban, and exposed Israel to scorn.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Colossians 4:2-18**

2 Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving;  
3 at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for  
the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison,  
4 that I may make it clear, as I must speak.  
5 Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the  
opportunity.  
6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you  
know how you should respond to each one.  
7 Tychicus, my beloved brother, trustworthy minister, and fellow slave in  
the Lord, will tell you all the news of me.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-56**

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of  
Galilee called Nazareth,  
27 to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David,  
and the virgin's name was Mary.  
28 And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with  
you."  
29 But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what  
sort of greeting this might be.  
30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have  
found favour with God.  
31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall  
name him Jesus.  
32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord  
God will give him the throne of David his father,  
33 and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom  
there will be no end."  
34 But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations  
with a man?"  
35 And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon  
you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the  
child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.  
36 And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her  
old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;  
37 for nothing will be impossible for God."  
38 Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to  
me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of advent**

### **A reading from Genesis Chapter 18**



1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the Terebinth of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot.

2 Looking up, he saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground,

3 <sup>1</sup> he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant.

4 Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree.

5 Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way." "Very well," they replied, "do as you have said."

6 Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three seahs of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls."

7 He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it.

8 Then he got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before them; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There in the tent," he replied.

10 One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son." Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, just behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years, and Sarah had stopped having her womanly periods.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am so withered and my husband is so old, am I still to have sexual pleasure?"

13 But the LORD said to Abraham: "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I really bear a child, old as I am?'

14 Is anything too marvelous for the LORD to do? At the appointed time, about this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Because she was afraid, Sarah dissembled, saying, "I didn't laugh." But he said, "Yes you did."

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians Chapter 3**

1 Because of this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ (Jesus) for you Gentiles--

2 if, as I suppose, you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit,

3 (namely, that) the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly earlier.

4 When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit,  
6 that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this I became a minister by the gift of God's grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power.

8 To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light [for all] <sup>5</sup> what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Chapter 1**

57 When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,

60 but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."

61 But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name."

62 So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.

63 He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.

65 Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea.

66 All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Advent**

#### **A reading from Genesis 24: 50.60**

50 Laban and his household said in reply: "This thing comes from the LORD; we can say nothing to you either for or against it.

51 Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you, that she may become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has said."

52 When Abraham's servant heard their answer, he bowed to the ground before the LORD.

53 Then he brought out objects of silver and gold and articles of clothing and presented them to Rebekah; he also gave costly presents to her brother and mother.

54 After he and the men with him had eaten and drunk, they spent the night there. When they were up the next morning, he said, "Give me leave to return to my master."

55 Her brother and mother replied, "Let the girl stay with us a short while, say ten days; after that she may go."

56 But he said to them, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has made my errand successful; let me go back to my master."

57 They answered, "Let us call the girl and see what she herself has to say about it."

58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Do you wish to go with this man?" She answered, "I do."

59 At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham's servant and his men.

60. Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said: "Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads; And may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!"

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians 5:5-17**

5 Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure or greedy person, that is, an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient.

7 So do not be associated with them.

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light,

9 for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

10 Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them,

12 for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret;

13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

15 Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise,

16 making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.

18 And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 addressing one another (in) psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts,  
20 giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ to God the Father.  
21 Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25**

18 Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his  
mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together,  
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.  
19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to  
expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.  
20 Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared  
to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to  
take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that  
this child has been conceived in her.  
21 She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will  
save his people from their sins."  
22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall  
name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."  
24 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had  
commanded him and took his wife into his home.  
25 He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him  
Jesus.

### **Christmas Mass**

#### **A reading from Isaiah 7:1.-16, 9:1-3 and 9:6-7**

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:  
11 Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the nether  
world, or high as the sky!  
12 But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"  
13 Then he said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to  
weary men, must you also weary my God?  
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be  
with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.  
15 He shall be living on curds and honey by the time he learns to reject  
the bad and choose the good.  
16 For before the child learns to reject the bad and choose the good, the  
land of those two kings whom you dread shall be deserted.

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

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

3 For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, And the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

6 His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

7 The Lord has sent word against Jacob, it falls upon Israel;

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Galatians 3:15-4:6**

15 Brothers, in human terms I say that no one can annul or amend even a human will once ratified.

16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, "And to descendants," as referring to many, but as referring to one, "And to your descendant," who is Christ.

17 This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to cancel the promise.

18 For if the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from a promise; but God bestowed it on Abraham through a promise.

19 Why, then, the law? It was added for transgressions, until the descendant came to whom the promise had been made; it was promulgated by angels at the hand of a mediator.

20 Now there is no mediator when only one party is involved, and God is one.

21 Is the law then opposed to the promises (of God)? Of course not! For if a law had been given that could bring life, then righteousness would in reality come from the law.

22 But scripture confined all things under the power of sin, that through faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

23 Before faith came, we were held in custody under law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed.

24 Consequently, the law was our disciplinarian for Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a disciplinarian.

26 For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

1 I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love,

3 striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:

4 one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-20**

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.

2 This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

4 And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to have her child,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.

9 The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

10 The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

15 When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

18 All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

19 And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of Christmas**

### **A reading from Genesis Chapter 21**

1The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised.

2Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated.

3Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

4When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded.

5Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6Sarah then said, "God has given me cause to laugh, and all who hear of it will laugh with me.

7Who would have told Abraham," she added, "that Sarah would nurse children! Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

8Isaac grew, and on the day of the child's weaning, Abraham held a great feast.

9 Sarah noticed the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing with her son Isaac;

10 so she demanded of Abraham: "Drive out that slave and her son! No son of that slave is going to share the inheritance with my son Isaac!"

11 Abraham was greatly distressed, especially on account of his son Ishmael.

12 But God said to Abraham: "Do not be distressed about the boy or about your slave woman. Heed the demands of Sarah, no matter what she is asking of you; for it is through Isaac that descendants shall bear your name.

13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a great nation of him also, since he too is your offspring."

14 Early the next morning Abraham got some bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. Then, placing the child on her back, he sent her away. As she roamed aimlessly in the wilderness of Beer-sheba,

15 the water in the skin was used up. So she put the child down under a shrub,  
16 and then went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away; for she said to herself, "Let me not watch to see the child die." As she sat opposite him, he began to cry.  
17 God heard the boy's cry, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven: "What is the matter, Hagar? Don't be afraid; God has heard the boy's cry in this plight of his.  
18 Arise, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand; for I will make of him a great nation."  
19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and then let the boy drink.  
20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert bowman,  
21 with his home in the wilderness of Paran. His mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

#### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Galatians Chapter 4**

8 At a time when you did not know God, you became slaves to things that by nature are not gods;  
9 but now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and destitute elemental powers? Do you want to be slaves to them all over again?  
10 You are observing days, months, seasons, and years.  
11 I am afraid on your account that perhaps I have labored for you in vain.  
12 I implore you, brothers, be as I am, because I have also become as you are. You did me no wrong;  
13 you know that it was because of a physical illness that I originally preached the gospel to you,  
14 and you did not show disdain or contempt because of the trial caused you by my physical condition, but rather you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.  
15 Where now is that blessedness of yours? Indeed, I can testify to you that, if it had been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.  
16 So now have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?  
17 They show interest in you, but not in a good way; they want to isolate you, so that you may show interest in them.  
18 Now it is good to be shown interest for good reason at all times, and not only when I am with you.  
19 My children, for whom I am again in labor until Christ be formed in you!



20 I would like to be with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed because of you.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the freeborn woman.

23 The son of the slave woman was born naturally, the son of the freeborn through a promise.

24 Now this is an allegory. These women represent two covenants. One was from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; this is Hagar.

25 Hagar represents Sinai, a mountain in Arabia; it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery along with her children.

26 But the Jerusalem above is freeborn, and she is our mother.

27 For it is written: "Rejoice, you barren one who bore no children; break forth and shout, you who were not in labor; for more numerous are the children of the deserted one than of her who has a husband."

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise.

29 But just as then the child of the flesh persecuted the child of the spirit, it is the same now.

30 But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the slave woman and her son! For the son of the slave woman shall not share the inheritance with the son" of the freeborn.

31 Therefore, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman but of the freeborn woman.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 2**

1 When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

3 When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

9 After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

10 They were overjoyed at seeing the star,

11 and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

13 When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

14 Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

15 He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi.

17 Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

19 When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20 and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

21 He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee.

23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

## **The New Year Mass (the Circumcision)**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 42**

18 You who are deaf, listen, you who are blind, look and see!  
19 Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like the messenger I send?  
20 You see many things without taking note; your ears are open, but without hearing.  
21 Though it pleased the LORD in his justice to make his law great and glorious,  
22 This is a people despoiled and plundered, all of them trapped in holes, hidden away in prisons. They are taken as booty, with no one to rescue them, as spoil, with no one to demand their return.  
23 Who of you gives ear to this? Who listens and pays heed for the time to come?  
24 Who was it that gave Jacob to be plundered, Israel to the despoilers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? In his ways they refused to walk, his law they disobeyed.  
25 So he poured out wrath upon them, his anger, and the fury of battle; it blazed round about them, yet they did not realize, it burned them, but they took it not to heart.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Galatians Chapter 5**

1 For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.  
2 It is I, Paul, who am telling you that if you have yourselves circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.  
3 Once again I declare to every man who has himself circumcised that he is bound to observe the entire law.  
4 You are separated from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.  
5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we await the hope of righteousness.  
6 For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Chapter 2**

21 When eight days were completed for his circumcision, <sup>Z</sup> he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Christmas**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 49: 1-6**

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

### **A reading from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, St. Paul's letter to Timothy**

Avoid profane, idle talk, for such people will become more and more godless,

17 and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 who have deviated from the truth by saying that (the) resurrection has already taken place and are upsetting the faith of some.

19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands, bearing this inscription, "The Lord knows those who are his"; and, "Let everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord avoid evil."

20 In a large household there are vessels not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for lofty and others for humble use.

21 If anyone cleanses himself of these things, he will be a vessel for lofty use, dedicated, beneficial to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So turn from youthful desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord with purity of heart.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Chapter 2**

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,  
23 just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,"  
24 and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.  
25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.  
27 He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,  
28 he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:  
29 "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word,  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
31 which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."  
33 The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;  
34 and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted  
35 (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."  
36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,  
37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.  
38 And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.  
39 When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.  
40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.  
41 Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,

## **Feast of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 4**

2 On that day, The branch of the LORD will be luster and glory, and the fruit of the earth will be honor and splendor for the survivors of Israel.

3 He who remains in Zion and he that is left in Jerusalem Will be called holy: every one marked down for life in Jerusalem.

4 When the Lord washes away the filth of the daughters of Zion, And purges Jerusalem's blood from her midst with a blast of searing judgment,

5 Then will the LORD create, over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her place of assembly, A smoking cloud by day and a light of flaming fire by night.

1But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,

3and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide,

4But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

5Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

4and say on that day: Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

5 Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth.

6 Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

## **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Titus Chapter 2**

11 For the grace of God has appeared, saving all

12 and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,

13 as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

## **A reading from Matthew Chapter 3**

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea

2(and) saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

3 It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

4 John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

5 At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him

6 and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

7 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.

9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

10 Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Exodus Chapter 3**

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

2 There an angel of the LORD appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed.

3 So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

4 When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."

5 God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering.

8 Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the country of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

9 So indeed the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have truly noted that the Egyptians are oppressing them.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup>, letter to Timothy Chapter 3**

1 But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days.

2 People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious,

3 callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good,

4 traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power. Reject them.

6 For some of these slip into homes and make captives of women weighed down by sins, led by various desires,

7 always trying to learn but never able to reach a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so they also oppose the truth--people of depraved mind, unqualified in the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress, for their foolishness will be plain to all, as it was with those two.

10 You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me.

12 In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 But wicked people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived.

14 But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it,

15 and that from infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Chapter 4**

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region.

15 He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read  
17 and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,  
19 and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

20 Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

21 He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

22 And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

23 He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'"

24 And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.

25 Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land.

26 It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.

27 Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

28 When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.

29 They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.

30 But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Numbers Chapter 10**

29Moses said to his brother-in-law Hobab, son of Reuel the Midianite, "We are setting out for the place which the LORD has promised to give

us. Come with us, and we will be generous toward you, for the LORD has promised prosperity to Israel."

30 But he answered, "No, I will not come. I am going instead to my own country and to my own kindred."

31 Moses said, "Please, do not leave us; you know where we can camp in the desert, and you will serve as eyes for us."

32 If you come with us, we will share with you the prosperity the LORD will bestow on us."

33 They moved on from the mountain of the LORD, a three days' journey, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD which was to seek out their resting place went the three days' journey with them.

34 And when they set out from camp, the cloud of the LORD was over them by day.

35 Whenever the ark set out, Moses would say, "Arise, O LORD, that your enemies may be scattered, and those who hate you may flee before you."

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews Chapter 3**

1 Therefore, holy "brothers," sharing in a heavenly calling, reflect on Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

2 who was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was "faithful in (all) his house."

3 But he is worthy of more "glory" than Moses, as the founder of a house has more "honor" than the house itself.

4 Every house is founded by someone, but the founder of all is God.

5 Moses was "faithful in all his house" as a "servant" to testify to what would be spoken,

6 but Christ was faithful as a son placed over his house. We are his house, if (only) we hold fast to our confidence and pride in our hope.

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Chapter 1**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be

4 through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race;

5 the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 A man named John was sent from God.

7 He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

12 But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name,

13 who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

15 John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace,

17 because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 45**

18 For thus says the LORD, The creator of the heavens, who is God, The designer and maker of the earth who established it, Not creating it to be a waste, but designing it to be lived in: I am the LORD, and there is no other.

19 I have not spoken from hiding nor from some dark place of the earth, And I have not said to the descendants of Jacob, "Look for me in an empty waste." I, the LORD, promise justice, I foretell what is right.

20 Come and assemble, gather together, you fugitives from among the gentiles! They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save.

21 Come here and declare in counsel together: Who announced this from the beginning and foretold it from of old? Was it not I, the LORD, besides whom there is no other God? There is no just and saving God but me.

22 Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other!

23 By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word:  
To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear,

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews Chapter 3, 4**

14 We have become partners of Christ if only we hold the beginning of  
the reality firm until the end,

15 for it is said: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice: 'Harden not  
your hearts as at the rebellion.'"

16 Who were those who rebelled when they heard? Was it not all those  
who came out of Egypt under Moses?

17 With whom was he "provoked for forty years"? Was it not those who  
had sinned, whose corpses fell in the desert?

18 And to whom did he "swear that they should not enter into his rest," if  
not to those who were disobedient?

19 And we see that they could not enter for lack of faith.

1 Therefore, let us be on our guard while the promise of entering into his  
rest remains, that none of you seem to have failed.

2 For in fact we have received the good news just as they did. But the  
word that they heard did not profit them, for they were not united in faith  
with those who listened.

3 For we who believed enter into (that) rest, just as he has said: "As I  
swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter into my rest,'" and yet his works  
were accomplished at the foundation of the world.

4 For he has spoken somewhere about the seventh day in this manner,  
"And God rested on the seventh day from all his works";

### **A reading from John Chapter 1**

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

30 He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks  
ahead of me because he existed before me.'

31 I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water  
was that he might be made known to Israel."

32 John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove  
from the sky and remain upon him.

33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told  
me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the  
one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

34 Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples,

36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of  
God."

37 The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

38 Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. 40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

42 Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

## **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 46**

5 Whom would you compare me with, as an equal, or match me against, as though we were alike?

6 There are those who pour out gold from a purse and weigh out silver on the scales; Then they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god before which they fall down in worship.

7 They lift it to their shoulders to carry; when they set it in place again, it stays, and does not move from the spot. Although they cry out to it, it cannot answer; it delivers no one from distress.

8 Remember this and be firm, bear it well in mind, you rebels; remember the former things, those long ago:

12 Listen to me, you fainthearted, you who seem far from the victory of justice:

13 I am bringing on my justice, it is not far off, my salvation shall not tarry; I will put salvation within Zion, and give to Israel my glory.

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews Chapter 7**

23 Those priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office,

24 but he, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away.

25 Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

26 It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens.

27 He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself.

28 For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Chapter 1**

43 The next day he <sup>31</sup> decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

46 But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him."

48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."

49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this."

51 And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## **5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Deuteronomy 18:9-22**

9 "When you come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not learn to imitate the abominations of the peoples there.

10 Let there not be found among you anyone who immolates his son or daughter in the fire, nor a fortune-teller, soothsayer, charmer, diviner,

11 or caster of spells, nor one who consults ghosts and spirits or seeks oracles from the dead.

12 Anyone who does such things is an abomination to the LORD, and because of such abominations the LORD, your God, is driving these nations out of your way.

13 You, however, must be altogether sincere toward the LORD, your God.

14 Though these nations whom you are to dispossess listen to their soothsayers and fortune-tellers, the LORD, your God, will not permit you to do so.

15 "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen.

16 This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'

17 And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him.

19 If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it.

20 But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'

21 "If you say to yourselves, 'How can we recognize an oracle which the LORD has spoken?'

22 know that, even though a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which the LORD did not speak. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall have no fear of him.

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews 6:9-13**

9 But we are sure in your regard, beloved, of better things related to salvation, even though we speak in this way.

10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones.

11 We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfilment of hope until the end,

12 so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.

13 When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, "he swore by himself,"

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:1-21**

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot re-enter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

6 What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit.

7 Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.'

8 The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?"

10 Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?

11 Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony.

12 If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

13 No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

18 Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.



20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

21 But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

## **6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Isaiah 63:7-16**

The favours of the LORD I will recall, the glorious deeds of the LORD, Because of all he has done for us; for he is good to the house of Israel, He has favoured us according to his mercy and his great kindness.

8 He said: They are indeed my people, children who are not disloyal; So he became their saviour

9 in their every affliction. It was not a messenger or an angel, but he himself who saved them. Because of his love and pity he redeemed them himself, Lifting them and carrying them all the days of old.

10 But they rebelled, and grieved his Holy Spirit; So he turned on them like an enemy, and fought against them.

11 Then they remembered the days of old and Moses, his servant; Where is he who brought up out of the sea the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who put his Holy Spirit in their midst;

12 Whose glorious arm was the guide at Moses' right; Who divided the waters before them, winning for himself eternal renown;

13 Who led them without stumbling through the depths like horses in the open country,

14 Like cattle going down into the plain, the spirit of the LORD guiding them? Thus you led your people, bringing glory to your name.

15 Look down from heaven and regard us from your holy and glorious palace! Where is your zealous care and your might, your surge of pity and your mercy? O Lord, hold not back,

16 for you are our father. Were Abraham not to know us, nor Israel to acknowledge us, You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever.

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews 8:1-7**

1 The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

2 a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up.

3 Now every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus the necessity for this one also to have something to offer.

4 If then he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are those who offer gifts according to the law.

5 They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, "See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

6 Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second one.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:22-32**

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing.

23 John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there, and people came to be baptized,

24 for John had not yet been imprisoned.

25 Now a dispute arose between the disciples of John and a Jew about ceremonial washings.

26 So they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and everyone is coming to him."

27 John answered and said, "No one can receive anything except what has been given him from heaven.

28 You yourselves can testify that I said (that) I am not the Messiah, but that I was sent before him.

29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete.

30 He must increase; I must decrease."

31 The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven (is above all).

32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.

### **7<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Epiphany**

### **A reading from Isaiah 42:5-9, 16-17**

5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it:

6 I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations,

7 To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

8 I am the LORD, this is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

9 See, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now foretell; Before they spring into being, I announce them to you.

16 I will lead the blind on their journey; by paths unknown I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them, and make crooked ways straight. These things I do for them, and I will not forsake them.

17 They shall be turned back in utter shame who trust in idols; Who say to molten images, "You are our gods."

### **A reading from the St. Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, letter to Timothy 6:9-16**

9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

11 But you, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 I charge (you) before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,

14 to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ

15 that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, and whom no human being has seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal power. Amen.

## **A reading from Matthew 7:28-29, 8:1-4**

28 When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

2 And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

3 He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." His leprosy was cleansed immediately.

4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of Lent**

### **A reading from Isaiah 58: 1, 6-9**

1 Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast; Tell my people their wickedness, and the house of Jacob their sins.

6 This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke;

7 Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them and not turning your back on your own.

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech;

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians 4:17-24**

17 So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds;

18 darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart,

19 they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess.

20 That is not how you learned Christ,

21 assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus,  
22 that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires,  
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your minds,  
24 and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-12**

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.  
2 He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.  
3 The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."  
4 He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"  
5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,  
6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"  
7 Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"  
8 Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,  
9 and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."  
10 At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"  
11 Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.  
12 When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

### **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Lent**

#### **A reading from Joshua 4:15-24**

15 Then the LORD said to Joshua,  
16 "Command the priests carrying the ark of the commandments to come up from the Jordan."  
17 Joshua did so,  
18 and when the priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD

had come up from the bed of the Jordan, as the soles of their feet regained the dry ground; the waters of the Jordan resumed their course and as before overflowed all its banks.

- 19 The people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and camped in Gilgal on the eastern limits of Jericho.
- 20 At Gilgal Joshua set up the twelve stones which had been taken from the Jordan,
- 21 saying to the Israelites, "In the future, when the children among you ask their fathers what these stones mean,
- 22 you shall inform them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan here on dry ground.'
- 23 For the LORD, your God, dried up the waters of the Jordan in front of you until you crossed over, just as the LORD, your God, had done at the Red Sea, which he dried up in front of us until we crossed over;
- 24 in order that all the peoples of the earth may learn that the hand of the LORD is mighty, and that you may fear the LORD, your God, forever."

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 6:1-8**

- 1 What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not!
- 2 How can we who died to sin yet live in it?
- 3 Or are you unaware that we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?
- 4 We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
- 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
- 7 For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
- 8 If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:15-27**

- 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves.
- 16 By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?
- 17 Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears

bad fruit.

- 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit.
- 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 20 So by their fruits you will know them.
- 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
- 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?'
- 23 Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'
- 24 "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
- 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.
- 26 And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand.
- 27 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of Lent**

#### **A reading from Genesis 7:1-24**

- 1 Then the LORD said to Noah: "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone in this age have I found to be truly just.
- 2 Of every clean animal, take with you seven pairs, a male and its mate; and of the unclean animals, one pair, a male and its mate;
- 3 likewise, of every clean bird of the air, seven pairs, a male and a female, and of all the unclean birds, one pair, a male and a female. Thus you will keep their issue alive over all the earth.
- 4 Seven days from now I will bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made."
- 5 Noah did just as the LORD had commanded him.
- 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters came upon the earth.
- 7 Together with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, Noah went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.
- 8 Of the clean animals and the unclean, of the birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground,

- 9 (two by two) male and female entered the ark with Noah, just as the LORD had commanded him.
- 10 As soon as the seven days were over, the waters of the flood came upon the earth.
- 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month: it was on that day that All the fountains of the great abyss burst forth, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.
- 12 For forty days and forty nights heavy rain poured down on the earth.
- 13 On the precise day named, Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of Noah's sons had entered the ark,
- 14 together with every kind of wild beast, every kind of domestic animal, every kind of creeping thing of the earth, and every kind of bird.
- 15 Pairs of all creatures in which there was the breath of life entered the ark with Noah.
- 16 Those that entered were male and female, and of all species they came, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.
- 17 The flood continued upon the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark, so that it rose above the earth.
- 18 The swelling waters increased greatly, but the ark floated on the surface of the waters.
- 19 Higher and higher above the earth rose the waters, until all the highest mountains everywhere were submerged,
- 20 the crest rising fifteen cubits higher than the submerged mountains.
- 21 All creatures that stirred on earth perished: birds, cattle, wild animals, and all that swarmed on the earth, as well as all mankind.
- 22 Everything on dry land with the faintest breath of life in its nostrils died out.
- 23The LORD wiped out every living thing on earth: man and cattle, the creeping things and the birds of the air; all were wiped out from the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left.
- 24The waters maintained their crest over the earth for one hundred and fifty days,

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 7:14-25**

- 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold into slavery to sin.
- 15 What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.



16 Now if I do what I do not want, I concur that the law is good.  
17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.  
18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not.  
19 For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.  
20 Now if (I) do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.  
21 So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand.  
22 For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self,  
23 but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.  
24 Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body?  
25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but, with my flesh, the law of sin.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:17-28**

17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve (disciples) aside by themselves, and said to them on the way,  
18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death,  
19 and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."  
20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.  
21 He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom."  
22 Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can."  
23 He replied, "My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."  
24 When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers.  
25 But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt.

26 But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;  
27 whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.  
28 Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

#### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Lent**

#### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 8: 12-17**

12 Consequently, brothers, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.  
13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.  
14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.  
15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"  
16 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,  
17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 21**

33 "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.  
34 When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.  
35 But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.  
36 Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.  
37 Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'  
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'  
39 They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.  
40 What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"  
41 They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes'?"

43 Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.

44 (The one who falls on this stone will be dashed to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.)"

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them.

46 And although they were attempting to arrest him, they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

### **A reading from Genesis 16:1-16**

1 Abram's wife Sarai had borne him no children. She had, however, an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar.

2 Sarai said to Abram: "The LORD has kept me from bearing children. Have intercourse, then, with my maid; perhaps I shall have sons through her." Abram heeded Sarai's request.

3 Thus, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, his wife Sarai took her maid, Hagar the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his concubine.

4 He had intercourse with her, and she became pregnant. When she became aware of her pregnancy, she looked on her mistress with disdain.

5 So Sarai said to Abram: "You are responsible for this outrage against me. I myself gave my maid to your embrace; but ever since she became aware of her pregnancy, she has been looking on me with disdain. May the LORD decide between you and me!"

6 Abram told Sarai: "Your maid is in your power. Do to her whatever you please." Sarai then abused her so much that Hagar ran away from her.

7 The LORD'S messenger found her by a spring in the wilderness, the spring on the road to Shur,

8 and he asked, "Hagar, maid of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She answered, "I am running away from my mistress, Sarai."

9 But the LORD'S messenger told her: "Go back to your mistress and submit to her abusive treatment.

10 I will make your descendants so numerous," added the LORD'S messenger, "that they will be too many to count.

11 Besides," the LORD'S messenger said to her: "You are now

- pregnant and shall bear a son; you shall name him Ishmael, For the LORD has heard you, God has answered you.
- 12 He shall be a wild ass of a man, his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; In opposition to all his kin shall he encamp."
- 13 To the LORD who spoke to her she gave a name, saying, "You are the God of Vision"; she meant, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after my vision?"
- 14 That is why the well is called Beer-lahai-roi. It is between Kadesh and Bered.
- 15 Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named the son whom Hagar bore him Ishmael.
- 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

### **A reading from Romans 12:1-21**

- 1 I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.
- 3 For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned.
- 4 For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function,
- 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.
- 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith;
- 7 if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching;
- 8 if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 9 Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;
- 10 love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.
- 11 Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- 12 Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 7:37-52, 8:12-20**

37 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'"

39 He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

40 Some in the crowd who heard these words said, "This is truly the Prophet."

41 Others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he?"

42 Does not scripture say that the Messiah will be of David's family and come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?"

43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of him.

44 Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

45 So the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?"

46 The guards answered, "Never before has anyone spoken like this one."

47 So the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived?

48 Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?

49 But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed."

5. Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them,

51 "Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?"

52 They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

12 Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You testify on your own behalf, so your testimony cannot be verified."

14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

15 You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone.

16 And even if I should judge, my judgment is valid, because I am not alone, but it is I and the Father who sent me.

17 Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men can be verified.

18 I testify on my behalf and so does the Father who sent me."

- 19 So they said to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."
- 20 He spoke these words while teaching in the treasury in the temple area. But no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

## **6th, Sunday of Lent**

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 14:10.-23**

10. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
- 11 for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
- 12 So (then) each of us shall give an account of himself (to God).
- 13 Then let us no longer judge one another, but rather resolve never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.
- 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; still, it is unclean for someone who thinks it unclean.
- 15 If your brother is being hurt by what you eat, your conduct is no longer in accord with love. Do not because of your food destroy him for whom Christ died.
- 16 So do not let your good be reviled.
- 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit;
- 18 whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by others.
- 19 Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another.
- 20 For the sake of food, do not destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to become a stumbling block by eating;
- 21 it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.
- 22 Keep the faith (that) you have to yourself in the presence of God; blessed is the one who does not condemn himself for what he approves.
- 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because this is not from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:39-10:21**

- 39 Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."
- 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"
- 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.
- 1 "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.
- 2 But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.
- 5 But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."
- 6 Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them.
- 7 So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10 A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.
- 11 I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 12 A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them.
- 13 This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me,
- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.
- 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- 17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
- 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have

received from my Father."

19 Again there was a division among the Jews because of these words.

20 Many of them said, "He is possessed and out of his mind; why listen to him?"

21 Others said, "These are not the words of one possessed; surely a demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?"

## **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)**

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 11:13-24**

13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry

14 in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them.

15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

16 If the first fruits are holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place and have come to share in the rich root of the olive tree,

18 do not boast against the branches. If you do boast, consider that you do not support the root; the root supports you.

19 Indeed you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

20 That is so. They were broken off because of unbelief, but you are there because of faith. So do not become haughty, but stand in awe.

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, (perhaps) he will not spare you either.

22 See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off.

23 And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated one, how much more will they who belong to it by nature be grafted back into their own olive tree.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:29-21:22**



- 29 As they left Jericho, a great crowd followed him.
- 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "[Lord,] Son of David, have pity on us!"
- 31 The crowd warned them to be silent, but they called out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on us!"
- 32 Jesus stopped and called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?"
- 33 They answered him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."
- 34 Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight, and followed him.
- 1 When they drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
- 2 saying to them "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me.
- 3 And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once."
- 4 This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:
- 5 "Say to daughter Zion, 'Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"
- 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.
- 7 They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them.
- 8 The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road.
- 9 The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."
- 10 And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?"
- 11 And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."
- 12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all those engaged in selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.
- 13 And he said to them, "It is written: 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of thieves."
- 14 The blind and the lame approached him in the temple area, and he cured them.
- 15 When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wondrous things he was doing, and the children crying out in the temple area,

"Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant  
16 and said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus said  
to them, "Yes; and have you never read the text, 'Out of the  
mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise?'"  
17 And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany, and there  
he spent the night.  
18 When he was going back to the city in the morning, he was  
hungry.  
19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went over to it, but found nothing  
on it except leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come  
from you again." And immediately the fig tree withered.  
20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed and said, "How  
was it that the fig tree withered immediately?"  
21 Jesus said to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, if you have faith  
and do not waver, not only will you do what has been done to the  
fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and  
thrown into the sea,' it will be done.  
22 Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

### **The Passover**

#### **A reading from Exodus 12: 1-14**

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,  
2 "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon  
it the first month of the year.  
3 Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every  
one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each  
household.  
4 If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest  
household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to  
the number of persons who partake of it.  
5 The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take  
it from either the sheep or the goats.  
6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with  
the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the  
evening twilight.  
7 They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and  
the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb.  
8 That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread  
and bitter herbs.  
9 It shall not be eaten raw or boiled, but roasted whole, with its head and  
shanks and inner organs.

10 None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up.

11 <sup>3</sup> "This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD.

12 For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every first-born of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt-I, the LORD!

13 But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

14 "This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.

### **A reading from St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup>, letter to Corinthians 5: 7-8, 11: 23-26**

7 Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread,

24 and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

25 In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 13: 1-15**

1 Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

2 The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper,

3 fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God,

4 he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later."

8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."

9 Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

10 Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all."

11 For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?"

13 You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.

14 If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.

15 I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.

## **The Good Friday**

### **A reading from Galatians Chapter 2: 17-20-3: 1-9**

17 But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? Of course not!

18 But if I am building up again those things that I tore down, then I show myself to be a transgressor.

19 For through the law I died to the law, that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ;

20 yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.

1 O stupid Galatians! Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

2 I want to learn only this from you: did you receive the Spirit from works of the law, or from faith in what you heard?

3 Are you so stupid? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?

4 Did you experience so many things in vain?--if indeed it was in vain.

5 Does, then, the one who supplies the Spirit to you and works mighty deeds among you do so from works of the law or from faith in what you heard?

6 Thus Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

7 Realize then that it is those who have faith who are children of Abraham.

8 Scripture, which saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, foretold the good news to Abraham, saying, "Through you shall all the nations be blessed."

9 Consequently, those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham who had faith.

### **A reading from Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-12**

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.

14 Even as many were amazed at him-- so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals--

15 So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your glorious garments, O Jerusalem, holy city. No longer shall the uncircumcised or the unclean enter you.

2 Shake off the dust, ascend to the throne, Jerusalem; Loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion!

3 For thus says the LORD: You were sold for nothing, and without money you shall be redeemed.

4 Thus says the Lord GOD: To Egypt in the beginning my people went down, to sojourn there; Assyria, too, oppressed them for nought.

5 But now, what am I to do here? says the LORD. My people have been taken away without redress; their rulers make a boast of it, says the LORD; all the day my name is constantly reviled.

6 Therefore on that day my people shall know my renown, that it is I who have foretold it. Here I am!

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, Announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!"

8 Hark! Your watchmen raise a cry, together they shout for joy, For they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion.

9 Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem.

10 The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; All

the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

- 11 Depart, depart, come forth from there, touch nothing unclean! Out from there! Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.
- 12 Yet not in fearful haste will you come out, nor leave in headlong flight, For the LORD comes before you, and your rear guard is the God of Israel.
- 13 See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
- 12 Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 22:63-23:12, Matthew 27:19, Luke 23:13-23, Matthew 27:24-25, Luke 23:24-45, Matthew 27:51-54, John 19:23-42**

- 63 The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him.
- 64 They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"
- 65 And they reviled him in saying many other things against him.
- 66 When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin.
- 67 They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe,
- 68 and if I question, you will not respond.
- 69 But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."
- 70 They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am."
- 71 Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth."
- 1 Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate.
- 2 They brought charges against him, saying, "We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king."
- 3 Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so."
- 4 Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds, "I find this man not guilty."
- 5 But they were adamant and said, "He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to here."

6 On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean;  
7 and upon learning that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.  
8 Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign.  
9 He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer.  
10 The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing him harshly.  
11 (Even) Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate.  
12 Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.  
19 While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him."  
13 Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people  
14 and said to them, "You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him,  
15 nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him.  
16 Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."  
17 "He was obliged to release one prisoner for them at the festival,"  
18 But all together they shouted out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us."  
19 (Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder.)  
20 Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus,  
21 but they continued their shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"  
22 Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."  
23 With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed.  
24 When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves."  
25 And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children."  
24 The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.

25 So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

26 As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.

27 A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

28 Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children,

29 for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.'

30 At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'

31 for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

34 [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] They divided his garments by casting lots.

35 The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God."

36 Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine

37 they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

38 Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

39 Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

40 The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?

41 And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

44 It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon

45 because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn



down the middle.

- 51 And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split,
- 52 tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
- 53 And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
- 54 The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"
- 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down.
- 24 So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled (that says): "They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots." This is what the soldiers did.
- 25 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
- 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."
- 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
- 28 After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."
- 29 There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.
- 30 When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.
- 31 Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.
- 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.
- 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs,
- 34 but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.
- 35 An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe.
- 36 For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken."

- 37 And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."
- 38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.
- 39 Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.
- 40 They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.
- 41 Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.
- 42 So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

## **The Easter Sunday**

### **A reading from Isaiah 60:1-7**

- 1 Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
- 2 See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; But upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.
- 3 Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.
- 4 Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: Your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.
- 5 Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
- 6 Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.
- 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered for you, the rams of Nebaioth shall be your sacrifices; They will be acceptable offerings on my altar, and I will enhance the splendor of my house.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Romans 5:20-6:14**

- 20 The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more,
- 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not!

- 2 How can we who died to sin yet live in it?
- 3 Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- 4 We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
- 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
- 7 For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
- 8 If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.
- 9 We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.
- 10 As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.
- 11 Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.
- 12 Therefore, sin must not reign over your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires.
- 13 And do not present the parts of your bodies to sin as weapons for wickedness, but present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life and the parts of your bodies to God as weapons for righteousness.
- 14 For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:1-18**

- 1 On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
- 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."
- 3 So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
- 4 They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first;
- 5 he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
- 6 When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
- 7 and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

8 Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

9 For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned home.

11 But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been.

13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

17 Jesus said to her "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Easter**

### **A reading from Acts 4:32-5:11**

32 The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

33 With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

34 There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale,

35 and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

36 Thus Joseph, also named by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth,

37 sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.

1 A man named Ananias, however, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property.

2 He retained for himself, with his wife's knowledge, some of the

purchase price, took the remainder, and put it at the feet of the apostles.

- 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the Holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land?"
- 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God."
- 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard of it.
- 6 The young men came and wrapped him up, then carried him out and buried him.
- 7 After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened.
- 8 Peter said to her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for this amount?" She answered, "Yes, for that amount."
- 9 Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen, the footsteps of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."
- 10 At once, she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men entered they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
- 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Colossians 1:1-10**

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
- 2 to the holy ones and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae: grace to you and peace from God our Father.
- 3 We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,
- 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the holy ones
- 5 because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. Of this you have already heard through the word of truth, the gospel,
- 6 that has come to you. Just as in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing, so also among you, from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth,
- 7 as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow slave, who is a trustworthy minister of Christ on your behalf
- 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.
- 9 Therefore, from the day we heard this, we do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will

through all spiritual wisdom and understanding  
10 to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

24 Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

28 Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book.

31 But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

#### **A reading from Acts 5:34-42**

- 34 But a Pharisee in the Sanhedrin named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up, ordered the men to be put outside for a short time,
- 35 and said to them, "Fellow Israelites, be careful what you are about to do to these men.
- 36 Some time ago, Theudas appeared, claiming to be someone important, and about four hundred men joined him, but he was killed, and all those who were loyal to him were disbanded and came to nothing.
- 37 After him came Judas the Galilean at the time of the census. He also drew people after him, but he too perished and all who were loyal to him were scattered.
- 38 So now I tell you, have nothing to do with these men, and let them go. For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself.
- 39 But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God." They were persuaded by him.
- 40 After recalling the apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them.
- 41 So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.
- 42 And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians 1:1-14**

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the holy ones who are (in Ephesus) faithful in Christ Jesus:
- 2 grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
- 4 as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love
- 5 he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will,
- 6 for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.
- 7 In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace
- 8 that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight,
- 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him

- 10 as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.
- 11 In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will,
- 12 so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.
- 13 In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
- 14 which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-14**

- 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- 4 Where (I) am going you know the way."
- 5 Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"
- 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- 7 If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."
- 8 Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."
- 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
- 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.
- 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.
- 12 Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.
- 13 And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.



14 If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.

## **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Easter**

### **A reading from Acts Chapter 8**

14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,  
15 who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money

19 and said, "Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money.

21 You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God.

22 Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven.

23 For I see that you are filled with bitter gall and are in the bonds of iniquity."

24 Simon said in reply, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

25 So when they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem and preached the good news to many Samaritan villages.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians Chapter 2**

1 You were dead in your transgressions and sins

2 in which you once lived following the age of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient.

3 All of us once lived among them in the desires of our flesh, following the wishes of the flesh and the impulses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us,  
5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Chapter 16**

16 "A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me."

17 So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

18 So they said, "What is this 'little while' (of which he speaks)? We do not know what he means."

19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?"

20 Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

21 When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world.

22 So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

### **5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Easter**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 49**

7 Thus says the LORD, the redeemer and the Holy One of Israel, To the one despised, whom the nations abhor, the slave of rulers: When kings see you, they shall stand up, and princes shall prostrate themselves Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you.

8 Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages,

9 Saying to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: Show yourselves! Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be.

10 They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; For he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water.

11 I will cut a road through all my mountains, and make my highways level.

12 See, some shall come from afar, others from the north and the west, and some from the land of Syene.

13 Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

### **A reading from the letter to Hebrews Chapter 10**

19 Therefore, brothers, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary

20 by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh,

21 and since we have "a great priest over the house of God,"

22 let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience <sup>12</sup> and our bodies washed in pure water.

23 Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

24 We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Chapter 21**

1 After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way.

2 Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No."

6 So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish.

7 So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

8 The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish.

9 When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."

11 So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord.

13 Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish.

14 This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

16 He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep."

18 Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

19 He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?"

21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? <sup>12</sup> What concern is it of yours? You follow me."

## **6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Easter**

### **A reading from Acts 1:1-16**

1 Now in Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Cohort called the Italica,

2 devout and God-fearing along with his whole household, who used to give alms generously to the Jewish people and pray to God constantly.

3 One afternoon about three o'clock, he saw plainly in a vision an angel of God come in to him and say to him, "Cornelius."

- 4 He looked intently at him and, seized with fear, said, "What is it, sir?" He said to him, "Your prayers and almsgiving have ascended as a memorial offering before God.
- 5 Now send some men to Joppa and summon one Simon who is called Peter.
- 6 He is staying with another Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea."
- 7 When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from his staff,
- 8 explained everything to them, and sent them to Joppa.
- 9 The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime.
- 10 He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance.
- 11 He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners.
- 12 In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky.
- 13 A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat."
- 14 But Peter said, "Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean."
- 15 The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane."
- 16 This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Ephesians 2:4-22**

- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us,
- 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- 6 raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,
- 7 that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
- 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;
- 9 it is not from works, so no one may boast.
- 10 For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.
- 11 Therefore, remember that at one time you, Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by those called the circumcision, which is done in the flesh by human hands,

12 were at that time without Christ, alienated from the community of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world.  
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.  
14 For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh,  
15 abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace,  
16 and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it.  
17 He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near,  
18 for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.  
19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God,  
20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone.  
21 Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord;  
22 in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:1-26**

1 When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you,  
2 just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him.  
3 Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.  
4 I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do.  
5 Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.  
6 "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.  
7 Now they know that everything you gave me is from you,  
8 because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and

- they have believed that you sent me.
- 9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours,
- 10 and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them.
- 11 And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.
- 12 When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled.
- 13 But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely.
- 14 I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.
- 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one.
- 16 They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.
- 17 Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.
- 18 As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.
- 19 And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.
- 20 "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
- 21 so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.
- 22 And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one,
- 23 I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.
- 24 Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- 25 Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
- 26 I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

## **The Assumption**

### **A reading from Acts 1: 6-12**

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

10 While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

### **A reading from the St. Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, letter to Tem 1: 18-19; 2:1-6.**

18 I entrust this charge to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophetic words once spoken about you. Through them may you fight a good fight

19 by having faith and a good conscience. Some, by rejecting conscience, have made a shipwreck of their faith,

20 among them Hymenaeus<sup>11</sup> and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone,

2 for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity.

3 This is good and pleasing to God our savior,

4 who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human,

6 who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:50-53**

50 Then he led them (out) as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them.



51 As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

52 They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy,  
53 and they were continually in the temple praising God.

## **7<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Easter**

### **A reading from Acts 1: 15-26**

15 During those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place). He said,

16 "My brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus.

17 He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry.

18 He bought a parcel of land with the wages of his iniquity, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his insides spilled out. <sup>z</sup>

19 This became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem, so that the parcel of land was called in their language 'Akeldama,' that is, Field of Blood.

20 For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his encampment become desolate, and may no one dwell in it.' And: 'May another take his office.'

21 Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us,

22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection."

23 So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

24 Then they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen

25 to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place."

26 Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

### **A reading from the St. Paul's letter to Philipian 1: 27-30; 2:1-5**

27 Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear news of you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind struggling together for the faith of the gospel,

28 not intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is proof to them of destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

29 For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him.

30 Yours is the same struggle as you saw in me and now hear about me.  
<sup>13</sup>

1 <sup>1</sup> If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

3 Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,

4 each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others.

5 Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Chap., 16: 14-20**

14 (But) later, as the eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised.

15 He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.

17 These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages.

18 They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

20 But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.)<sup>3</sup>

### **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of the Apostles**

#### **A reading from Acts 2:1-21**

1 Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things.

2 We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true.

3 Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such

- things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?
- 4 Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?
- 5 By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God,
- 6 who will repay everyone according to his works:
- 7 eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works,
- 8 but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness.
- 9 Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek.
- 10 But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek.
- 11 There is no partiality with God.
- 12 All who sin outside the law will also perish without reference to it, and all who sin under the law will be judged in accordance with it.
- 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified.
- 14 For when the Gentiles who do not have the law by nature observe the prescriptions of the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law.
- 15 They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even defend them
- 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus.
- 17 Now if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of God
- 18 and know his will and are able to discern what is important since you are instructed from the law,
- 19 and if you are confident that you are a guide for the blind and a light for those in darkness,
- 20 that you are a trainer of the foolish and teacher of the simple, because in the law you have the formulation of knowledge and truth-
- 21 then you who teach another, are you failing to teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:1-21**

- 1 I must boast; not that it is profitable, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I know that this person (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows)
- 4 was caught up into Paradise and heard ineffable things, which no one may utter.
- 5 About this person I will boast, but about myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses.
- 6 Although if I should wish to boast, I would not be foolish, for I would be telling the truth. But I refrain, so that no one may think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me
- 7 because of the abundance of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated.
- 8 Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me,
- 9 but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.
- 10 Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
- 11 I have been foolish. You compelled me, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I am in no way inferior to these "superapostles," even though I am nothing.
- 12 The signs of an apostle were performed among you with all endurance, signs and wonders, and mighty deeds.
- 13 In what way were you less privileged than the rest of the churches, except that on my part I did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!
- 14 Now I am ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, for I want not what is yours, but you. Children ought not to save for their parents, but parents for their children.
- 15 I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent for your sakes. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?
- 16 But granted that I myself did not burden you, yet I was crafty and got the better of you by deceit.
- 17 Did I take advantage of you through any of those I sent to you?
- 18 I urged Titus to go and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? And in the same steps?
- 19 Have you been thinking all along that we are defending ourselves

before you? In the sight of God we are speaking in Christ, and all for building you up, beloved.

20 For I fear that when I come I may find you not such as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish; that there may be rivalry, jealousy, fury, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

21 I fear that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, immorality, and licentiousness they practiced.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:15-16, 25-26 and 15:26, 16:1-4**

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,

25 "I have told you this while I am with you.

26 The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you.

26 "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.

1 "I have told you this so that you may not fall away.

2 They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.

3 They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me.

4 I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you. "I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you.

5 But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

6 But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts.

7 But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

8 And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation:

9 sin, because they do not believe in me;

10 righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me;

11 condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

- 12 "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
- 13 But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming.
- 14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.
- 15 Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Apostles**

### **A reading from Acts 4:5-22**

- 5 On the next day, their leaders, elders, and scribes were assembled in Jerusalem,
- 6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly class.
- 7 They brought them into their presence and questioned them, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"
- 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders:
- 9 If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved,
- 10 then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed.
- 11 He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.'
- 12 There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."
- 13 Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus.
- 14 Then when they saw the man who had been cured standing there with them, they could say nothing in reply.
- 15 So they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, and conferred with one another, saying,
- 16 "What are we to do with these men? Everyone living in Jerusalem knows that a remarkable sign was done through them, and we cannot deny it.
- 17 But so that it may not be spread any further among the people, let us give them a stern warning never again to speak to anyone in

this name."

18 So they called them back and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 Peter and John, however, said to them in reply, "Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges.

20 It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

21 After threatening them further, they released them, finding no way to punish them, on account of the people who were all praising God for what had happened.

22 For the man on whom this sign of healing had been done was over forty years old.

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians 5:6-6:11**

6 Your boasting is not appropriate. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?

7 Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people,

10 not at all referring to the immoral of this world or the greedy and robbers or idolaters; for you would then have to leave the world.

11 But I now write to you not to associate with anyone named a brother, if he is immoral, greedy, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunkard, or a robber, not even to eat with such a person.

12 For why should I be judging outsiders? Is it not your business to judge those within?

13 God will judge those outside. "Purge the evil person from your midst."

1 How can any one of you with a case against another dare to bring it to the unjust for judgment instead of to the holy ones?

2 Do you not know that the holy ones will judge the world? If the world is to be judged by you, are you unqualified for the lowest law courts?

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? Then why not everyday matters?

4 If, therefore, you have courts for everyday matters, do you seat as judges people of no standing in the church?

5 I say this to shame you. Can it be that there is not one among you

- wise enough to be able to settle a case between brothers?
- 6 But rather brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers?
- 7 Now indeed (then) it is, in any case, a failure on your part that you have lawsuits against one another. Why not rather put up with injustice? Why not rather let yourselves be cheated?
- 8 Instead, you inflict injustice and cheat, and this to brothers.
- 9 Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites
- 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- 11 That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:31-53**

- 31 "Then to what shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like?
- 32 They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.'
- 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine, and you said, 'He is possessed by a demon.'
- 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'
- 35 But wisdom is vindicated by all her children."
- 36 A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.
- 37 Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment,
- 38 she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.
- 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner."
- 40 Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.
- 41 "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty.
- 42 Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both.



Which of them will love him more?"

- 43 Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly."
- 44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair.
- 45 You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered.
- 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment.
- 47 So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."
- 48 He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."
- 49 The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"
5. But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Apostles**

#### **A reading from Isaiah 1:1-9**

- 1 The vision which Isaiah, son of Amoz, had concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- 2 Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth, for the LORD speaks: Sons have I raised and reared, but they have disowned me!
- 3 An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger; But Israel does not know, my people have not understood.
- 4 Ah! Sinful nation, people laden with wickedness, evil race, corrupt children! They have forsaken the LORD, spurned the Holy One of Israel, and apostatized.
- 5 Where would you yet be struck, you that rebel again and again? The whole head is sick, the whole heart faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot to the head there is no sound spot: Wound and welt and gaping gash, not drained, or bandaged, or eased with salve.
- 7 Your country is waste, your cities burnt with fire; your land before your eyes strangers devour (a waste, like Sodom overthrown)--
- 8 And daughter Zion is left like a hut in a vineyard, like a shed in a melon patch, like a city blockaded.
- 9 Unless the LORD of hosts had left us a scanty remnant, we had become as Sodom, we should be like Gomorrah.

## **A reading from 1 Corinthians 7:1-7**

- 1 Now in regard to the matters about which you wrote: "It is a good thing for a man not to touch a woman,"
- 2 but because of cases of immorality every man should have his own wife, and every woman her own husband.
- 3 The husband should fulfill his duty toward his wife, and likewise the wife toward her husband.
- 4 A wife does not have authority over her own body, but rather her husband, and similarly a husband does not have authority over his own body, but rather his wife.
- 5 Do not deprive each other, except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, to be free for prayer, but then return to one another, so that Satan may not tempt you through your lack of self-control.
- 6 This I say by way of concession, however, not as a command.
- 7 Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am, but each has a particular gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:25-42**

- 23 Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.
- 24 For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."
- 25 There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- 26 Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"
- 27 He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."
- 28 He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."
- 29 But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
- 30 Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.
- 31 A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.
- 32 Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

- 33 But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.
- 34 He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.
- 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'
- 36 Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"
- 37 He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."
- 38 As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.
- 39 She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.
- 40 Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."
- 41 The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.
- 42 There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

#### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of the Apostles**

#### **A reading from Deuteronomy 1:16-33**

- 16 I charged your judges at that time, 'Listen to complaints among your kinsmen, and administer true justice to both parties even if one of them is an alien.
- 17 In rendering judgment, do not consider who a person is; give ear to the lowly and to the great alike, fearing no man, for judgment is God's. Refer to me any case that is too hard for you and I will hear it.'
- 18 Thereupon I gave you all the commands you were to fulfill.
- 19 "Then, in obedience to the command of the LORD, our God, we set out from Horeb and journeyed through the whole desert, vast and fearful as you have seen, in the direction of the hill country of the Amorites. We had reached Kadesh-barnea
- 20 when I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD, our God, is giving us.
- 21 The LORD, your God, has given this land over to you. Go up and

occupy it, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, commands you. Do not fear or lose heart.'

- 22 Then all of you came up to me and said, 'Let us send men ahead to reconnoiter the land for us and report to us on the road we must follow and the cities we must take.'
- 23 Agreeing with the proposal, I chose twelve men from your number, one from each tribe.
- 24 They set out into the hill country as far as the Wadi Eshcol, and explored it.
- 25 Then, taking along some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, 'The land which the LORD, our God, gives us is good.'
- 26 "But you refused to go up, and after defying the command of the LORD, your God,
- 27 you set to murmuring in your tents, 'Out of hatred for us the LORD has brought us up out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites and destroy us.
- 28 What shall we meet with up there? Our kinsmen have made us fainthearted by reporting that the people are stronger and taller than we, and their cities are large and fortified to the sky; besides, they saw the Anakim there.'
- 29 "But I said to you, 'Have no dread or fear of them.
- 30 The LORD, your God, who goes before you, will himself fight for you, just as he took your part before your very eyes in Egypt,
- 31 as well as in the desert, where you saw how the LORD, your God, carried you, as a man carries his child, all along your journey until you arrived at this place.'

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians 9:16-27**

- 16 If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!
- 17 If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.
- 18 What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
- 19 Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible.
- 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law--though I myself am not under the law--to win over those under the law.
- 21 To those outside the law I became like one outside the law--

though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ--to win over those outside the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some.

23 All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

24 Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win.

25 Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.

26 Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing.

### **A reading from Luke 6:12-46**

12 In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.

13 When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles:

14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

15 Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot,

16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

17 And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon

18 came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured.

19 Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

20 And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

21 Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Apostles**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 1**

21 How has she turned adulteress, the faithful city, so upright! Justice used to lodge within her, but now, murderers.

22 Your silver is turned to dross, your wine is mixed with water.

23 Your princes are rebels and comrades of thieves; Each one of them loves a bribe and looks for gifts. The fatherless they defend not, and the widow's plea does not reach them.

24 Now, therefore, says the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: Ah! I will take vengeance on my foes and fully repay my enemies!

25 I will turn my hand against you, and refine your dross in the furnace, removing all your alloy.

26 I will restore your judges as at first, and your counselors as in the beginning; After that you shall be called city of justice, faithful city.

27 Zion shall be redeemed by judgment, and her repentant ones by justice.

28 Rebels and sinners alike shall be crushed, those who desert the LORD shall be consumed.

29 You shall be ashamed of the terebinths which you prized, and blush for the groves which you chose.

30 You shall become like a tree with falling leaves, like a garden that has no water.

31 The strong man shall turn to tow, and his work shall become a spark; Both shall burn together, and there shall be none to quench the flames.

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 14**

1 Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy.

2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit.

3 On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their building up, encouragement, and solace.

4 Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but whoever prophesies builds up the church.

5 Now I should like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be built up.

6 Now, brothers, if I should come to you speaking in tongues, what good will I do you if I do not speak to you by way of revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or instruction?

7 Likewise, if inanimate things that produce sound, such as flute or harp, do not give out the tones distinctly, how will what is being played on flute or harp be recognized?

8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

9 Similarly, if you, because of speaking in tongues, do not utter intelligible speech, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be talking to the air.

10 It happens that there are many different languages in the world, and none is meaningless;

11 but if I do not know the meaning of a language, I shall be a foreigner to one who speaks it, and one who speaks it a foreigner to me.

12 So with yourselves: since you strive eagerly for spirits, seek to have an abundance of them for building up the church.

13 <sup>5</sup> Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray to be able to interpret.

14 (For) if I pray in a tongue, my spirit is at prayer but my mind is unproductive.

15 So what is to be done? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind. I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will also sing praise with the mind.

16 Otherwise, if you pronounce a blessing (with) the spirit, how shall one who holds the place of the uninstructed say the "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?

17 For you may be giving thanks very well, but the other is not built up.

18 I give thanks to God that I speak in tongues more than any of you,  
19 but in the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, so as to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

### **A reading from Luke 12:16-34**

16 Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.

17 He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?'

18 And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods

19 and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"

20 But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'

21 Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

- 22 He said to (his) disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear.
- 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.
- 24 Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!
- 25 Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan?
- 26 If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?
- 27 Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them.
- 28 If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?
- 29 As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore.
- 30 All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them.
- 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides.
- 32 Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.
- 33 Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.
- 34 For where your treasure is, there also will your heart.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Apostles**

### **A reading from Isaiah 2:1-19**

- 1 This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2 In days to come, The mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it;
- 3 many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD'S mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 4 He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword



against another, nor shall they train for war again.

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

6 You have abandoned your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with fortunetellers and soothsayers, like the Philistines; they covenant with strangers.

7 Their land is full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; Their land is full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

8 Their land is full of idols; they worship the works of their hands, that which their fingers have made.

9 But man is abased, each one brought low. (Do not pardon them!)

10 Get behind the rocks, hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty!

11 The haughty eyes of man will be lowered, the arrogance of men will be abased, and the LORD alone will be exalted, on that day.

12 For the LORD of hosts will have his day against all that is proud and arrogant, all that is high, and it will be brought low;

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:14-32**

14 Therefore, my beloved, avoid idolatry.

15 I am speaking as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I am saying.

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

17 Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

18 Look at Israel according to the flesh; are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

19 So what am I saying? That meat sacrificed to idols is anything? Or that an idol is anything?

20 No, I mean that what they sacrifice, (they sacrifice) to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to become participants with demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and also the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons.

22 Or are we provoking the Lord to jealous anger? Are we stronger than he?

23 "Everything is lawful," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is lawful," but not everything builds up.

24 No one should seek his own advantage, but that of his neighbor.

25 Eat anything sold in the market, without raising questions on grounds of conscience,

- 26 for "the earth and its fullness are the Lord's."  
27 If an unbeliever invites you and you want to go, eat whatever is placed before you, without raising questions on grounds of conscience.  
28 But if someone says to you, "This was offered in sacrifice," do not eat it on account of the one who called attention to it and on account of conscience;  
29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other's. For why should my freedom be determined by someone else's conscience?  
30 If I partake thankfully, why am I reviled for that over which I give thanks?  
31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.  
32 Avoid giving offense, whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God,

### **A reading from Luke 12:57-13:17**

- 57 "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?  
58 If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way; otherwise your opponent will turn you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the constable, and the constable throw you into prison.  
59 I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."  
1 At that time some people who were present there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.  
2 He said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?  
3 By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!  
4 Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?  
5 By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"  
6 And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,  
7 he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. (So) cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'

- 8 He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;  
9 it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"  
10 He was teaching in a synagogue on the sabbath.  
11 And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect.  
12 When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free of your infirmity."  
13 He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God.  
14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, "There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day."  
15 The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering?  
16 This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?"  
17 When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated; and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.

## **7th, Sunday of the Apostles**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 5**

- 8 Woe to you who join house to house, who connect field with field, Till no room remains, and you are left to dwell alone in the midst of the land!  
9 In my hearing the LORD of hosts has sworn: Many houses shall be in ruins, large ones and fine, with no one to live in them.  
1 Ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one liquid measure, And a homer of seed shall yield but an ephah.  
11 Lambs shall graze there at pasture, and kids shall eat in the ruins of the rich.  
12 Woe to those who demand strong drink as soon as they rise in the morning, And linger into the night while wine inflames them!

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 16**

- 1 Now in regard to the collection for the holy ones, you also should do as I ordered the churches of Galatia.

2 On the first day of the week each of you should set aside and save whatever one can afford, so that collections will not be going on when I come.

3 And when I arrive, I shall send those whom you have approved with letters of recommendation to take your gracious gift to Jerusalem.

4 If it seems fitting that I should go also, they will go with me.

### **A reading from Luke Chapter 13**

22 He passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.

23 Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

25 After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'

27 Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where (you) are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!'

28 And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.

29 And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.

30 For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

### **Feast of Revelation**

#### **A reading from Exodus Chapter 19**

7 So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people. When he set before them all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them,

8 the people all answered together, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do." Then Moses brought back to the LORD the response of the people.

9 The LORD also told him, "I am coming to you in a dense cloud, so that when the people hear me speaking with you, they may always have faith in you also." When Moses, then, had reported to the LORD the response of the people,

## **A reading from Hebrews Chapter 12**

25 See that you do not reject the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much more in our case if we turn away from the one who warns from heaven.

26 His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, "I will once more shake not only earth but heaven."

27 That phrase, "once more," points to (the) removal of shaken, created things, so that what is unshaken may remain.

28 Therefore, we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe.

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

## **A reading from Matthew Chapter 17**

1 After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

8 And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

## **The Assumption of Mary**

### **A reading from Acts Chapter 1**

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

13 When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and

Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

### **A reading from Romans Chapter 16**

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them.

18 For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

19 For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil;

20 then the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

21 Timothy, my co-worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my relatives.

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 12**

46 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him.

47 (Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you.")

48 But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers.

50 For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Summer**

#### **A reading from Acts 5:12-32**

12 Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico.

13 None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.

14 Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men

and women, were added to them.

15 Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

16 A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

17 Then the high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy,

18 laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail.

19 But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said,

20 "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."

21 When they heard this, they went to the temple early in the morning and taught. When the high priest and his companions arrived, they convened the Sanhedrin, the full senate of the Israelites, and sent to the jail to have them brought in.

22 But the court officers who went did not find them in the prison, so they came back and reported,

23 "We found the jail securely locked and the guards stationed outside the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside."

24 When they heard this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss about them, as to what this would come to.

25 Then someone came in and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people."

26 Then the captain and the court officers went and brought them in, but without force, because they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

27 When they had brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them,

28 "We gave you strict orders (did we not?) to stop teaching in that name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us."

29 But Peter and the apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men.

30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree.

31 God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.

32 We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God

has given to those who obey him."

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 and 2 Corinthians 1:8-14**

- 9 For as I see it, God has exhibited us apostles as the last of all, like people sentenced to death, since we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and human beings alike.
- 10 We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in disrepute.
- 11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clad and roughly treated, we wander about homeless
- 12 and we toil, working with our own hands. When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;
- 13 when slandered, we respond gently. We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all, to this very moment.
- 14 I am writing you this not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.
- 15 Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- 16 Therefore, I urge you, be imitators of me.
- 8 We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction that came to us in the province of Asia; we were utterly weighed down beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.
- 9 Indeed, we had accepted within ourselves the sentence of death, that we might trust not in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.
- 10 He rescued us from such great danger of death, and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope (that) he will also rescue us again,
- 11 as you help us with prayer, so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the gift granted us through the prayers of many.
- 12 For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with the simplicity and sincerity of God, (and) not by human wisdom but by the grace of God.
- 13 For we write you nothing but what you can read and understand, and I hope that you will understand completely,
- 14 as you have come to understand us partially, that we are your boast as you also are ours, on the day of (our) Lord Jesus.

### **A reading from Luke Chapter 14**



On a sabbath he went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. In front of him there was a man suffering from dropsy.

Jesus spoke to the scholars of the law and Pharisees in reply, asking, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath or not?" But they kept silent; so he took the man and, after he had healed him, dismissed him. Then he said to them, "Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the sabbath day?" But they were unable to answer his question.

He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor.

A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.'

Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment.

Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Summer**

### **A reading from Isaiah Ch. 4**

2 On that day, The branch of the LORD will be luster and glory, and the fruit of the earth will be honor and splendor for the survivors of Israel.

3 He who remains in Zion and he that is left in Jerusalem Will be called holy: every one marked down for life in Jerusalem.

4 When the Lord washes away the filth of the daughters of Zion, And purges Jerusalem's blood from her midst with a blast of searing judgment,

5 Then will the LORD create, over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her place of assembly, A smoking cloud by day and a light of flaming fire by night.

6 For over all, his glory will be shelter and protection: shade from the parching heat of day, refuge and cover from storm and rain.

### **A reading from St. Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Corinthians Ch. 3**

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

5Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God,

6who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, was so glorious that the Israelites could not look intently at the face of Moses because of its glory that was going to fade,

8how much more will the ministry of the Spirit be glorious?

9For if the ministry of condemnation was glorious, the ministry of righteousness will abound much more in glory.

10Indeed, what was endowed with glory has come to have no glory in this respect because of the glory that surpasses it.

11For if what was going to fade was glorious, how much more will what endures be glorious.

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we act very boldly

### **A reading from Luke Ch. 15**

Then he said, "A man had two sons,

12 and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them.

13 After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

14 When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.

15 So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

16 And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

17 Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger.

18 I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

20 So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

22 But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast,

24 because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of summer**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Ch. 5**

1 Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside;

2 He spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; Within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.

3 Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard:

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 Now, I will let you know what I mean to do to my vineyard: Take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled!

6 Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briars; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it.

7 The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his cherished plant; He looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!

#### **A reading from St. Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Corinthians Ch. 7**

1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

2 Make room for us; we have not wronged anyone, or ruined anyone, or taken advantage of anyone.

3 I do not say this in condemnation, for I have already said that you are in our hearts, that we may die together and live together.

4 I have great confidence in you, I have great pride in you; I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction.

5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way--external conflicts, internal fears.

6 But God, who encourages the downcast, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus,

7 and not only by his arrival but also by the encouragement with which he was encouraged in regard to you, as he told us of your yearning, your lament, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

### **A reading from John Ch. 9**

1 As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth.

2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.

4 We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes,

7 and said to him, "Go wash <sup>3</sup> in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

8 His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"

9 Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am."

10 So they said to him, "(So) how were your eyes opened?"

### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of summer**

### **A reading from Isaiah Ch. 9**

7 The Lord has sent word against Jacob, it falls upon Israel;

8 And all the people know it, Ephraim and those who dwell in Samaria, those who say in arrogance and pride of heart,

9 "Bricks have fallen, but we will build with cut stone; Sycamores are felled, but we will replace them with cedars."

10 But the LORD raises up their foes against them and stirs up their enemies to action:

11 Aram on the east and the Philistines on the west devour Israel with open mouth. For all this, his wrath is not turned back, and his hand is still outstretched!

12 The people do not turn to him who struck them, nor seek the LORD of hosts.

13 So the LORD severs from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day.

14 (The elder and the noble are the head, the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail.)

15 The leaders of this people mislead them and those to be led are engulfed.

16 For this reason, the Lord does not spare their young men, and their orphans and widows he does not pity; They are wholly profaned and sinful, and every mouth gives vent to folly. For all this, his wrath is not turned back, his hand is still outstretched!

### **A reading from St. Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Corinthians Ch. 10**

1 Now I myself, Paul, urge you through the gentleness and clemency of Christ, I who am humble when face to face with you, but brave toward you when absent,

2 I beg you that, when present, I may not have to be brave with that confidence with which I intend to act boldly against some who consider us as acting according to the flesh.

3 For, although we are in the flesh, we do not battle according to the flesh,

4 for the weapons of our battle are not of flesh but are enormously powerful, capable of destroying fortresses. We destroy arguments

5 and every pretension raising itself against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive in obedience to Christ,

6 and we are ready to punish every disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

7 Look at what confronts you. Whoever is confident of belonging to Christ should consider that as he belongs to Christ, so do we.

8 And even if I should boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I shall not be put to shame.

### **A reading from Mark Ch. 7**

1 Now when the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,

2 they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

3 (For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

4 And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles (and beds).)

5 So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders<sup>3</sup> but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"

6 He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

7 In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.'

8 You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

## **5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of summer**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 28**

14 Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, you arrogant, who rule this people in Jerusalem:

15<sup>2</sup> Because you say, "We have made a covenant with death, and with the nether world we have made a pact; When the overwhelming scourge passes, it will not reach us; For we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have found a hiding place,"--

16 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: See, I am laying a stone in Zion, a stone that has been tested, A precious cornerstone as a sure foundation; he who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken.

17 I will make of right a measuring line, of justice a level.-- Hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters shall flood the hiding place.

18 Your covenant with death shall be canceled and your pact with the nether world shall not stand. When the overwhelming scourge passes, you shall be trampled down by it.

19 Whenever it passes, it shall take you; morning after morning it shall pass, By day and by night; terror alone shall convey the message.

20 For the bed shall be too short to stretch out in, and the cover too narrow to wrap in.

21 For the LORD shall rise up as on Mount Perazim, bestir himself as in the Valley of Gibeon, To carry out his work, his singular work, to perform his deed, his strange deed.

22 Now, be arrogant no more lest your bonds be tightened, For I have heard from the Lord, the GOD of hosts, the destruction decreed for the whole earth.

### **A reading from 2 Corinthians Chapter 12**

12 The signs of an apostle were performed among you with all endurance, signs and wonders, and mighty deeds.

13 In what way were you less privileged than the rest of the churches, except that on my part I did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

14 Now I am ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, for I want not what is yours, but you. Children ought not to save for their parents, but parents for their children.

### **A reading from Luke Chapter 16**

19 "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.

20 And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

21 who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

22 When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,

23 and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

24 And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

25 Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

26 Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

27 He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house,

28 for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.'

29 But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.'

30 He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

### **6th, Sunday of Summer**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 29**

13 The Lord said: Since this people draws near with words only and honors me with their lips alone, though their hearts are far from me, and their reverence for me has become routine observance of the precepts of men,

14 Therefore I will again deal with this people in surprising and wondrous fashion: The wisdom of its wise men shall perish and the understanding of its prudent men be hid.

15 Woe to those who would hide their plans too deep for the LORD! Who work in the dark, saying, "Who sees us, or who knows us?"

16 Your perversity is as though the potter were taken to be the clay: As though what is made should say of its maker, "He made me not!" Or the vessel should say of the potter, "He does not understand."

17 But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be regarded as a forest!

18 On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; And out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.

19 The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

20 For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone; All who are alert to do evil will be cut off,

21 those whose mere word condemns a man, Who ensnare his defender at the gate, and leave the just man with an empty claim.

## **A reading from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2**

1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our reception among you was not without effect.

2 Rather, after we had suffered and been insolently treated, as you know, in Philippi, we drew courage through our God to speak to you the gospel of God with much struggle.

3 Our exhortation was not from delusion or impure motives, nor did it work through deception.

4 But as we were judged worthy by God to be entrusted with the gospel, that is how we speak, not as trying to please human beings, but rather God, who judges our hearts.

5 Nor, indeed, did we ever appear with flattering speech, as you know, or with a pretext for greed--God is witness--

6 nor did we seek praise from human beings, either from you or from others,

7 although we were able to impose our weight as apostles of Christ. Rather, we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children.



8 With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us.

9 You recall, brothers, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers.

### **A reading from Luke Chapter 17**

11 As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was entering a village, ten lepers met (him). They stood at a distance from him

13 and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

14 And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests."

<sup>5</sup> As they were going they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice;

16 and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?"

### **7<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Summer**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 30**

1 Woe to the rebellious children, says the LORD, Who carry out plans that are not mine, who weave webs that are not inspired by me, adding sin upon sin.

2 They go down to Egypt, but my counsel they do not seek. They find their strength in Pharaoh's protection and take refuge in Egypt's shadow;

3 Pharaoh's protection shall be your shame, and refuge in Egypt's shadow your disgrace.

4 When their princes are at Zoan and their messengers reach Hanes,

5 All shall be ashamed of a people that gain them nothing, Neither help nor benefit, but only shame and reproach.

6 (Oracle on the Beasts of the Negeb) Through the distressed and troubled land of the lioness and roaring lion, of the viper and flying saraph, They carry their riches on the backs of asses and their treasures on the humps of camels To a people good for nothing,

7 to Egypt whose help is futile and vain. Therefore I call her "Rahab quelled."

8 Now come, write it on a tablet they can keep, inscribe it in a record;  
That it may be in future days an eternal witness:

9 This is a rebellious people, deceitful children, Children who refuse to  
obey the law of the LORD.

10 They say to the seers, "Have no visions"; to the prophets, "Do not  
descry for us what is right; speak flatteries to us, conjure up illusions.

## **A reading from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2**

14 For you, brothers, have become imitators of the churches of God that  
are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you suffer the same things from your  
compatriots as they did from the Jews,

15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us;  
they do not please God, and are opposed to everyone,

16 trying to prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles that they may be  
saved, thus constantly filling up the measure of their sins. But the wrath  
of God has finally begun to come upon them.

17 Brothers, when we were bereft of you for a short time, in person, not  
in heart, we were all the more eager in our great desire to see you in  
person.

18 We decided to go to you--I, Paul, not only once but more than once--  
yet Satan thwarted us.

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown to boast of in the presence of our  
Lord Jesus at his coming if not you yourselves?

20 For you are our glory and joy.

## **A reading from Luke Chapter 18**

9 He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their  
own righteousness and despised everyone else.

10 "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee  
and the other was a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O  
God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity--greedy,  
dishonest, adulterous--or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

13 But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise  
his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to  
me a sinner.'

14 I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone  
who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself  
will be exalted."

## **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Elijah**

## **A reading from Isaiah 31:1-9**

- 1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who depend upon horses: Who put their trust in chariots because of their number, and in horsemen because of their combined power, But look not to the Holy One of Israel nor seek the LORD!
- 2 Yet he too is wise and will bring disaster; he will not turn from what he has threatened to do. He will rise up against the house of the wicked and against those who help evildoers.
- 3 The Egyptians are men, not God, their horses are flesh, not spirit; When the LORD stretches forth his hand, the helper shall stumble, the one helped shall fall, and both of them shall perish together.
- 4 Thus says the LORD to me: As a lion or a lion cub growling over its prey, With a band of shepherds assembled against it, Is neither frightened by their shouts nor disturbed by their noise, So shall the LORD of hosts come down to wage war upon the mountain and hill of Zion.
- 5 Like hovering birds, so the LORD of hosts shall shield Jerusalem, To protect and deliver, to spare and rescue it.
- 6 Return, O children of Israel, to him whom you have utterly deserted.
- 7 On that day each one of you shall spurn his sinful idols of silver and gold, which he made with his hands.
- 8 Assyria shall fall by a sword not wielded by man. No mortal sword shall devour him; He shall flee before the sword, and his young men shall be impressed as laborers.
- 9 He shall rush past his crag in panic, and his princes shall flee in terror from his standard, says the LORD who has a fire in Zion and a furnace in Jerusalem.

## **A reading from 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

- 1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 grace to you and peace from God (our) Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 We ought to thank God always for you, brothers, as is fitting, because your faith flourishes ever more, and the love of every one of you for one another grows ever greater.
- 4 Accordingly, we ourselves boast of you in the churches of God regarding your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions you endure.
- 5 This is evidence of the just judgment of God, so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering.

6 For it is surely just on God's part to repay with afflictions those who are afflicting you,  
7 and to grant rest along with us to you who are undergoing afflictions, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his mighty angels,  
8 in blazing fire, inflicting punishment on those who do not acknowledge God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.  
9 These will pay the penalty of eternal ruin, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power,  
10 when he comes to be glorified among his holy ones and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, for our testimony to you was believed.

### **A reading from Luke 18:35-19:10**

35 Now as he approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging,  
36 and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening.  
37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."  
38 He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"  
39 The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!"  
40 Then Jesus stopped and ordered that he be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him,  
41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, please let me see."  
42 Jesus told him, "Have sight; your faith has saved you."  
43 He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.  
1 He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.  
2 Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man,  
3 was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.  
4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.  
5 When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."  
6 And he came down quickly and received him with joy.  
7 When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."  
8 But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my

possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of Elijah**

### **A reading from Isaiah 30:15-26**

15 For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies. But this you did not wish.

16 "No," you said, "Upon horses we will flee." --Very well, flee! "Upon swift steeds we will ride." --Not so swift as your pursuers.

17 A thousand shall tremble at the threat of one; if five threaten you, you shall flee, Until you are left like a flagstaff on the mountaintop, like a flag on the hill.

18 Yet the LORD is waiting to show you favor, and he rises to pity you; For the LORD is a God of justice: blessed are all who wait for him!

19 O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem, no more will you weep; He will be gracious to you when you cry out, as soon as he hears he will answer you.

20 The Lord will give you the bread you need and the water for which you thirst. No longer will your Teacher hide himself, but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,

21 While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it," when you would turn to the right or to the left.

22 And you shall consider unclean your silver-plated idols and your gold-covered images; You shall throw them away like filthy rags to which you say, "Begone!"

23 He will give rain for the seed that you sow in the ground, And the wheat that the soil produces will be rich and abundant. On that day your cattle will graze in spacious meadows;

24 The oxen and the asses that till the ground will eat silage tossed to them with shovel and pitchfork.

25 Upon every high mountain and lofty hill there will be streams of running water. On the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall,

26 The light of the moon will be like that of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times greater (like the light of seven days). On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people, he will heal the bruises left by his blows.

## **A reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:15- 17,**

15 Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.

16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace,

17 encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.

1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you,

2 and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

4 We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you, you (both) are doing and will continue to do.

5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

## **A reading from Matt Chap.: 1-9**

13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of Elijah**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 32**

1 See, a king will reign justly and princes will rule rightly.

2 Each of them will be a shelter from the wind, a retreat from the rain. They will be like streams of water in a dry country, like the shade of a great rock in a parched land.

3 The eyes of those who see will not be closed; the ears of those who hear will be attentive,

4 The flighty will become wise and capable, and the stutterers will speak fluently and clearly.

5 No more will the fool be called noble, nor the trickster be considered honorable,

6 For the fool speaks foolishly, planning evil in his heart: How to do wickedness, to speak perversely against the LORD, To let the hungry go empty and the thirsty be without drink,

7 And the trickster uses wicked trickery, planning crimes: How to ruin the poor with lies, and the needy when they plead their case.

8 But the noble man plans noble things, and by noble things he stands.

#### **A reading from Philippians Chapter 1**

12 I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel,

13 so that my imprisonment has become well known in Christ throughout the whole praetorium and to all the rest,

14 and so that the majority of the brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly.

15 Of course, some preach Christ from envy and rivalry, others from good will.

16 The latter act out of love, aware that I am here for the defense of the gospel;

17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not from pure motives, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment.

18 What difference does it make, as long as in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being proclaimed? And in that I rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I shall continue to rejoice,

19 for I know that this will result in deliverance for me through your prayers and support from the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

20 My eager expectation and hope is that I shall not be put to shame in any way, but that with all boldness, now as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 13**

24 He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25 While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds <sup>10</sup> all through the wheat, and then went off.

26 When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

27 The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?'

28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29 He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.

30 Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'''

### **The Feast of the Cross**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 52**

13 See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.

14 Even as many were amazed at him-- so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals--

15 So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

1 Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

2 He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him.

3 He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

4 Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted.



5 But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

6 We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

7 Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

8 Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people,

9 A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.

10 (But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

11 Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.

12 Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

## **A reading from Philippians Chapter 2**

1 If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

3 Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,

4 each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others.

5 Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

6 Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

7 Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance,

8 he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

9 Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, <sup>8</sup> of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, <sup>9</sup> to the glory of God the Father.

### **A reading from Luke Chapter 24**

13 Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,

14 and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

15 And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,

16 but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

19 And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

20 how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

21 But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

22 Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning

23 and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

24 Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

25 And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!

26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

29 But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

31 With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

32 Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

33 So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them

34 who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

35 Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

#### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of Elijah and 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of the Cross**

##### **A reading from Deuteronomy 8:11-20**

11 Be careful not to forget the LORD, your God, by neglecting his commandments and decrees and statutes which I enjoin on you today:

12 lest, when you have eaten your fill, and have built fine houses and lived in them,

13 and have increased your herds and flocks, your silver and gold, and all your property,

14 you then become haughty of heart and unmindful of the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery;

15 who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock

16 and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers, that he might afflict you and test you, but also make you prosperous in the end.

17 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.'

18 Remember then, it is the LORD, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth, by fulfilling, as he has now done, the covenant which he swore to your fathers.

19 But if you forget the LORD, your God, and follow other gods, serving and worshiping them, I forewarn you this day that you will perish utterly.

20 Like the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so shall you too perish for not heeding the voice of the LORD, your God.

##### **A reading from Philippians 1:27-2:11**

27 Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear news of you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind struggling together for the faith of the gospel,  
28 not intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is proof to them of destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.  
29 For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him.  
30 Yours is the same struggle as you saw in me and now hear about me.  
1 If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy,  
2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.  
3 Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,  
4 each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others.  
5 Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,  
6 Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.  
7 Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance,  
8 he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
9 Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **A reading from Matthew 4:12-5:16**

17 From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
18 As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.  
19 He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
20 At once they left their nets and followed him.  
21 He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James,

- the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them,  
22 and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.
- 23 He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.
- 24 His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them.
- 25 And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.
- 1 When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 He began to teach them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- 6 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
- 14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
- 15 Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.
- 16 Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of the Cross**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 26**

1 On that day they will sing this song in the land of Judah: "A strong city have we; he sets up walls and ramparts to protect us.  
2 Open up the gates to let in a nation that is just, one that keeps faith.  
3 A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace; in peace, for its trust in you."  
4 Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock.  
5 He humbles those in high places, and the lofty city he brings down; He tumbles it to the ground, levels it with the dust.  
6 It is trampled underfoot by the needy, by the footsteps of the poor.  
7 The way of the just is smooth; the path of the just you make level.  
8 Yes, for your way and your judgments, O LORD, we look to you; Your name and your title are the desire of our souls.  
9 My soul yearns for you in the night, yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you; When your judgment dawns upon the earth, the world's inhabitants learn justice.

### **A reading from Philippians Chapter 3**

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. Writing the same things to you is no burden for me but is a safeguard for you.  
2 Beware of the dogs! Beware of the evil workers! Beware of the mutilation!  
3 For we are the circumcision, we who worship through the Spirit of God, who boast in Christ Jesus and do not put our confidence in flesh, 4 although I myself have grounds for confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he can be confident in flesh, all the more can I.  
5 Circumcised on the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew parentage, in observance of the law a Pharisee, 6 in zeal I persecuted the church, in righteousness based on the law I was blameless.  
7 (But) whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss <sup>Z</sup> because of Christ.  
8 More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 17**

14 When they came to the crowd a man approached, knelt down before him,  
15 and said, "Lord, have pity on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; often he falls into fire, and often into water.  
16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

17 Jesus said in reply, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me."

18 Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured.

19 Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, "Why could we not drive it out?"

20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Cross**

#### **A reading from Deuteronomy 9:13-22**

13 I have seen now how stiff-necked this people are,' the LORD said to me.

14 'Let me be that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under the heavens. I will then make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

15 "When I had come down again from the blazing, fiery mountain, with the two tablets of the covenant in both my hands,

16 I saw how you had sinned against the LORD, your God: you had already turned aside from the way which the LORD had pointed out to you by making for yourselves a molten calf!

17 Raising the two tablets with both hands I threw them from me and broke them before your eyes.

18 Then, as before, I lay prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights without eating or drinking, because of all the sin you had committed in the sight of the LORD and the evil you had done to provoke him.

19 For I dreaded the fierce anger of the LORD against you: his wrath would destroy you. Yet once again the LORD listened to me.

20 With Aaron, too, the LORD was deeply angry, and would have killed him had I not prayed for him also at that time.

21 Then, taking the calf, the sinful object you had made, and fusing it with fire, I ground it down to powder as fine as dust, which I threw into the wadi that went down the mountainside.

22 "At Taberah, at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah likewise, you provoked the LORD to anger.

#### **A reading from Philippians 4:4-23**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

- 5 Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.  
6 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.  
7 Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
9 Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### **A reading from Matthew 15:21-38**

- 21 Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.  
22 And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."  
23 But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."  
24 He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."  
25 But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me."  
26 He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."  
27 She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."  
28 Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

### **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of the Cross**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 33**

Woe, O destroyer never destroyed, O traitor never betrayed! When you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; when wearied with betraying, you will be betrayed.

2 O LORD, have pity on us, for you we wait. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of trouble!



3 At the roaring sound, peoples flee; when you rise in your majesty, nations are scattered.

4 Men gather spoil as caterpillars are gathered up; they rush upon it like the onrush of locusts.

5 The LORD is exalted, enthroned on high; he fills Zion with right and justice.

6 That which makes her seasons lasting, the riches that save her, are wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is her treasure.

## **A reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 14**

4 Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but whoever prophesies builds up the church.

5 Now I should like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be built up.

6 <sup>4</sup> Now, brothers, if I should come to you speaking in tongues, what good will I do you if I do not speak to you by way of revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or instruction?

7 Likewise, if inanimate things that produce sound, such as flute or harp, do not give out the tones distinctly, how will what is being played on flute or harp be recognized?

8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

9 Similarly, if you, because of speaking in tongues, do not utter intelligible speech, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be talking to the air.

10 It happens that there are many different languages in the world, and none is meaningless;

11 but if I do not know the meaning of a language, I shall be a foreigner to one who speaks it, and one who speaks it a foreigner to me.

12 So with yourselves: since you strive eagerly for spirits, seek to have an abundance of them for building up the church.

13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray to be able to interpret.

14 (For) if I pray in a tongue, my spirit is at prayer but my mind is unproductive.

15 So what is to be done? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind. I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will also sing praise with the mind.

16 Otherwise, if you pronounce a blessing (with) the spirit, how shall one who holds the place of the uninstructed say the "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?

17 For you may be giving thanks very well, but the other is not built up.  
18 I give thanks to God that I speak in tongues more than any of you,  
19 but in the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, so  
as to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.  
20 Brothers, stop being childish in your thinking. In respect to evil be  
like infants, but in your thinking be mature.

## **A reading from Matthew Chapter 18**

1 At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the  
greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"  
2 He called a child over, placed it in their midst,  
3 and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like  
children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.  
4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom  
of heaven.  
5 And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives  
me.  
6 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it  
would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck  
and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.  
7 Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must  
come, but woe to the one through whom they come!  
8 If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is  
better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled than with two hands  
or two feet to be thrown into eternal fire.  
9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is  
better for you to enter into life with one eye than with two eyes to be  
thrown into fiery Gehenna.  
10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you  
that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly  
Father.  
11 What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of  
them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in  
search of the stray?  
13 And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than  
over the ninety-nine that did not stray.  
14 In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that  
one of these little ones be lost.  
15 "If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between  
you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.

16 If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

18 Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of Moses**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 40**

1 Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

4 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley.

5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

6 A voice says, "Cry out!" I answer, "What shall I cry out?" "All mankind is grass, and all their glory like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it. (So then, the people is the grass.)

8 Though the grass withers and the flower wilts, the word of our God stands forever."

### **A reading from 2 Corinthians Chapter 1**

23 But I call upon God as witness, on my life, that it is to spare you that I have not yet gone to Corinth.

24 Not that we lord it over your faith; rather, we work together for your joy, for you stand firm in the faith.

1 For I decided not to come to you again in painful circumstances.

2 For if I inflict pain upon you, then who is there to cheer me except the one pained by me?

3 And I wrote as I did so that when I came I might not be pained by those in whom I should have rejoiced, confident about all of you that my joy is that of all of you.

4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not that you might be pained but that you might know the abundant love I have for you.

5 If anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure (not to exaggerate) to all of you.

## **A reading from Matthew Chapter 20**

1 "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

2 After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 Going out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'

5 So they went off. (And) he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

6 Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

7 They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

8 When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

9 When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

10 So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.

11 And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.'

13 He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'

14 Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?'

15 (Or) am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?'

16 Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Moses**

### **A reading from Isaiah 40:18-28**

18 To whom can you liken God? With what equal can you confront him?

19 An idol, cast by a craftsman, which the smith plates with gold and fits with silver chains?

20 Mulberry wood, the choice portion which a skilled craftsman picks out for himself, Choosing timber that will not rot, to set up an idol that will not be unsteady?

6 One man helps another, one says to the other, "Keep on!"

7 The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, the one who beats with the hammer, him who strikes on the anvil; He says the soldering is good, and he fastens it with nails to steady it.

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Was it not foretold you from the beginning? Have you not understood? Since the earth was founded

22 He sits enthroned above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; He stretches out the heavens like a veil, spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

23 He brings princes to nought and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted or sown, scarcely is their stem rooted in the earth, When he breathes upon them and they wither, and the stormwind carries them away like straw.

25 To whom can you liken me as an equal? says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these: He leads out their army and numbers them, calling them all by name. By his great might and the strength of his power not one of them is missing!

27 Why, O Jacob, do you say, and declare, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

28 Do you not know or have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

### **A reading from Galatians 5:1-6**

1 For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

2 It is I, Paul, who am telling you that if you have yourselves circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

3 Once again I declare to every man who has himself circumcised that he is bound to observe the entire law.

4 You are separated from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we await the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

### **A reading from Luke 8:43-48**

43 And a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years, <sup>15</sup> who (had spent her whole livelihood on doctors and) was unable to be cured by anyone,

44 came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak. Immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 Jesus then asked, "Who touched me?" While all were denying it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are pushing and pressing in upon you."

46 But Jesus said, "Someone has touched me; for I know that power has gone out from me."

47 When the woman realized that she had not escaped notice, she came forward trembling. Falling down before him, she explained in the presence of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been healed immediately.

48 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace."

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of Moses**

#### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 41**

8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, offspring of Abraham my friend--

9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth and summoned from its far-off places, You whom I have called my servant, whom I have chosen and will not cast off--

10 Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

11 Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against you; Those shall perish and come to nought who offer resistance.

12 You shall seek out, but shall not find, those who strive against you; They shall be as nothing at all who do battle with you.

13 For I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you."

14 Fear not, O worm Jacob, O maggot Israel; I will help you, says the LORD; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

15 I will make of you a threshing sledge, sharp, new, and double-edged, To thresh the mountains and crush them, to make the hills like chaff.

### **A reading from Galatians Chapter 6**

1 Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deluding himself.

4 Each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast with regard to himself alone, and not with regard to someone else;

5 for each will bear his own load.

6 One who is being instructed in the word should share all good things with his instructor.

7 Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows,

8 because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit.

9 Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.

10 So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 8**

23 He got into a boat and his disciples followed him.

24 Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep.

25 They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

26 He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm.

27 The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"

## **1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday of the Holy Church**

### **A reading from Isaiah Chapter 6**

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

9 And he replied: Go and say to this people: Listen carefully, but you shall not understand! Look intently, but you shall know nothing!

10 You are to make the heart of this people sluggish, to dull their ears and close their eyes; Else their eyes will see, their ears hear, their heart understand, and they will turn and be healed.

11 "How long, O Lord?" I asked. And he replied: Until the cities are desolate, without inhabitants, Houses, without a man, and the earth is a desolate waste.

12 Until the LORD removes men far away, and the land is abandoned more and more.

13 If there be still a tenth part in it, then this in turn shall be laid waste; As with a terebinth or an oak whose trunk remains when its leaves have fallen. (Holy offspring is the trunk.)

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12**

28 Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds?

30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

1 If I speak in human and angelic tongues <sup>2</sup> but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.



4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated,  
5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,  
6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.  
7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
8 Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 16**

13 When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"  
14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."  
15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
16 Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."  
17 Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.  
18 And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.  
19 I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."  
20 Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

### **2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday of the Holy Church**

#### **A reading from Hebrews Chapter 8**

1 The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,  
2 a minister of the sanctuary <sup>2</sup> and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up.  
3 Now every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus the necessity for this one also to have something to offer.

4 If then he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are those who offer gifts according to the law.

5 They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, "See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

6 Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second one.

8 But he finds fault with them and says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will conclude a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

### **A reading from Matthew Chapter 12**

1 At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads<sup>2</sup> of grain and eat them.

2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath."

3 He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry,

4 how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat?

5<sup>4</sup> Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent?

6 I say to you, something greater than the temple is here.

7<sup>5</sup> If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday of the Holy Church**

#### **A reading from Numbers Chapter 7**

1 Now, when Moses had completed the erection of the Dwelling and had anointed and consecrated it with all its equipment (as well as the altar with all its equipment),

2 an offering was made by the princes of Israel, who were heads of ancestral houses; the same princes of the tribes who supervised the census.

3 The offering they brought before the LORD consisted of six baggage wagons and twelve oxen, that is, a wagon for every two princes, and an ox for every prince. These they presented as their offering before the Dwelling.

4 The LORD then said to Moses,

5 "Accept their offering, that these things may be put to use in the service of the meeting tent. Assign them to the Levites, to each group in proportion to its duties."

6 So Moses accepted the wagons and oxen, and assigned them to the Levites.

7 He gave two wagons and four oxen to the Gershonites in proportion to their duties,

8 and four wagons and eight oxen to the Merarites in proportion to their duties, under the supervision of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

9 He gave none to the Kohathites, because they had to carry on their shoulders the sacred objects which were their charge.

10 For the dedication of the altar also, the princes brought offerings before the altar on the day it was anointed.

11 But the LORD said to Moses, "Let one prince a day present his offering for the dedication of the altar."

### **A reading from Hebrews Chapter 9**

5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the place of expiation. Now is not the time to speak of these in detail.

6 With these arrangements for worship, the priests, in performing their service, go into the outer tabernacle repeatedly,

7 but the high priest alone goes into the inner one once a year, not without blood that he offers for himself and for the sins of the people.

8 In this way the Holy Spirit shows that the way into the sanctuary had not yet been revealed while the outer tabernacle still had its place.

9 This is a symbol of the present time, in which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper in conscience

10 but only in matters of food and drink and various ritual washings: regulations concerning the flesh, imposed until the time of the new order.

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation,

12 he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed,

### **A reading from John Chapter 2**

13 Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there.

15 He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables,

16 and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

17 His disciples recalled the words of scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

20 The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

22 Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

## **4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday of the Holy Church**

### **A reading from 1 Kings Chapter 6**

11 This word of the LORD came to Solomon:

12 "As to this temple you are building--if you observe my statutes, carry out my ordinances, keep and obey all my commands, I will fulfill toward you the promise I made to your father David.

13 I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will not forsake my people Israel."

14 When Solomon finished building the temple,

15 its walls were lined from floor to ceiling beams with cedar paneling, and its floor was laid with fir planking.

16 At the rear of the temple a space of twenty cubits was set off by cedar partitions from the floor to the rafters, enclosing the sanctuary, the holy of holies.

17 The nave, or part of the temple in front of the sanctuary, was forty cubits long.

18 The cedar in the interior of the temple was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers; all was of cedar, and no stone was to be seen.

19 In the innermost part of the temple was located the sanctuary to house the ark of the LORD'S covenant,

## **A reading from Hebrews Chapter 9**

16 Now where there is a will, the death of the testator must be established.

17 For a will takes effect only at death; it has no force while the testator is alive.

18 Thus not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.

19 When every commandment had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves (and goats), together with water and crimson wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is 'the blood of the covenant which God has enjoined upon you.'"

21 In the same way, he sprinkled also the tabernacle and all the vessels of worship with blood.

22 According to the law almost everything is purified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 Therefore, it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified by these rites, but the heavenly things themselves by better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf.

25 Not that he might offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters each year into the sanctuary with blood that is not his own;

26 if that were so, he would have had to suffer repeatedly from the foundation of the world. But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice.

27 Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment,

28 so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

## **A reading from Matthew Chapter 22**

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, 42 saying, "What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "David's."

43 He said to them, "How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him 'lord,' saying:

44 'The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet"?"

45 If David calls him 'lord,' how can he be his son?"

46 No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions

1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples,

2 saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.

3 Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.

4 They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.

5 All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.