

SSRA.UK

Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud

Lectioary 2025

**Readings for Sundays
from 1 December 2024
to 23 November 2025**

Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud 2025

Easter is late this year, so from January, right through into the beginning of March, we get a good run of eight Sundays of the main programme for the year, reading sequential readings from the beginning of Saint Luke (the gospel for the year) and from 1 Corinthians (always the first epistle of the year), before pausing for Lent and Easter. These eight weeks in particular benefit from SSRA's policy of always prioritising "the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum", when selecting from the options and variations on offer; and also, this year, from SSRA's organising of the Holy Family and early-January readings from Saint Luke and Saint John into sequence in Years B and C, allowing the prophetic opening of Saint Luke's gospel, and the Sermon on the Plain, to set the agenda for the whole of the gospel year that lies ahead.

Overview of the three-year programme of readings

SSRA is based on the same three-year programme of readings as *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), *Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary* (CW), and *Lectionary for Mass* (LFM), giving access to a vast range of lectionary-based resources, both in print and online, for sermons, prayers, children's work, and more.

The main programme of readings runs from 7 January to 26 November reading through one gospel and a series of epistles each year on a three-year cycle

Gospel			Epistle		
Year A	Year B	Year C	Year A	Year B	Year C
1	John		1	Ephesians	Hebrews
				1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians
	Mark			2 Corinthians	Galatians
				Ephesians	Colossians
	John	Luke		James	Hebrews
				Hebrews	Philemon
	Mark			Hebrews	1 Timothy
				Hebrews	2 Timothy
				Hebrews	2 Thessalonians
				Hebrews	2 Thessalonians
34	John		34	Ephesians	Colossians
				Revelation	Colossians

Events or parables appearing in more than one gospel may appear only once in the three year cycle
 An Old Testament reading each Sunday helps illustrate the gospel reading for the day

The main programme pauses for an Easter series, kept in real time,
 from the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (one week before Easter Day),
 to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (seven weeks after Easter Day);
 plus five weeks of readings in preparation (called Sundays of Lent)
 and Trinity Sunday to reflect on it all - fifteen Sundays in all

*The primary theme of Lent is the joyful anticipation of the triumph of Easter,
 and this is reflected in the readings for the season; any penitential theme is secondary*

	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Lent 1	Year A fall, Year B flood, Year C salvation		Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness
Lent 2	The faith of Abraham		The Transfiguration
Lent 3	Readings from the history of Israel and the prophets	Salvation in Christ - readings from Saint Paul and Hebrews	Readings from John (and Luke in Year C)
Lent 4			
Lent 5			
Palm Sunday	The Passion of the Lord		
Easter Day	The Resurrection		
Easter 2	The Acts of the Apostles Year A the early days in Jerusalem Year B the emerging inclusion of the gentiles Year C the ministry of Saint Paul	Year A: 1 Peter Year B: 1 John Year C: Revelation	Resurrection appearances including Year A road to Emmaus, Year B Jerusalem, Year C lakeside
Easter 3			Good Shepherd Sunday – readings from John 10
Easter 4			Preparing for Pentecost with Jesus' teachings and prayers for the future church - different sections each year from John 13-17
Easter 5			
Easter 6			
Easter 7			
Pentecost	The day of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit		
Trinity Sunday	God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit		

Finally a Christmas series runs from 27 November through to 6 January, to include the four
 Sundays of Advent, the twelve days of Christmas, and the visit of the Magi on 6 January, the Epiphany

The year letter changes on the first Sunday of Advent
 2025 is Year C - from 1 December 2024 to 23 November 2025

*Readings are also provided for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday,
 Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day*

Numbering

SSRA gives the Sundays of the main programme the numbers 1 to 34
 with the name 'Ordinary Time' (as in LFM) - this serves to highlight the systematic reading
 of the gospel and epistles for the year across these 34 Sundays

Some lectionaries have different naming and numbering systems for the same 34 Sundays,
 variously calling them 'Propers', 'after Epiphany', 'after Trinity', 'before Lent', 'before Advent',
 and 'of the Kingdom' - sometimes with different definitions of Ordinary Time -
but they are the same Sundays, with the same readings.

In 2025, the 'after Trinity' number is the 'Ordinary Time' number minus eleven.

You can also subtract five from the 'Ordinary Time' number
 to give the CW/RCL 'Proper' number, for accessing CW and RCL resources.

Compatibility: variations and additional options

As more and more denominations have adopted what is essentially the same lectionary, each has enriched the range of available material by adding its own variations and additional options. As a result, the various editions of the lectionary can end up being not quite 100% compatible.

As a practical, ready-to-use resource, SSRA makes selections from amongst the options and variations on offer, always prioritising the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

This is the programme followed by SSRA for the Gospel readings in Ordinary Time

	Year A	Year B	Year C
1	<u>Matthew 3</u> ¹³⁻¹⁷	<u>John 1</u> ²⁹⁻³⁴	<u>Luke 2</u> ²²⁻⁴⁰
2	<u>Matthew 4</u> ¹²⁻¹⁷	<u>John 1</u> ³⁵⁻⁴²	<u>Luke 2</u> ⁴¹⁻⁵²
3	<u>Matthew 4</u> ¹⁸⁻²⁵	<u>John 2</u> ¹⁻¹¹	<u>Luke 4</u> ¹⁴⁻²¹
4	<u>Matthew 5</u> ¹⁻¹²	<u>Mark 1</u> ¹⁴⁻²⁸	<u>Luke 4</u> ²¹⁻³⁰
5	Matthew 5 ¹³⁻²⁰	Mark 1 ²⁹⁻³⁹	Luke 5 ¹⁻¹¹
6	Matthew 5 ²⁰⁻³⁷	Mark 1 ⁴⁰⁻⁴⁵	Luke 6 ¹⁷⁻²⁶
7	Matthew 5 ³⁸⁻⁴⁸	Mark 2 ¹⁻¹²	Luke 6 ²⁷⁻³⁸
8	Matthew 6 ²⁴⁻³³	<u>Mark 2</u> ¹³⁻²²	Luke 6 ³⁹⁻⁴⁹
9	Matthew 7 ²¹⁻²⁹	Mark 2 ²³⁻³⁶	Luke 7 ²⁻¹⁰
10	Matthew 9 ⁹⁻¹³	Mark 3 ²⁰⁻³⁵	Luke 7 ¹¹⁻¹⁷
11	Matthew 9 ³⁵⁻¹⁰ ⁸	Mark 4 ²⁶⁻³⁴	Luke 7 ³⁶⁻⁵⁰
12	Matthew 10 ²⁸⁻³¹	Mark 4 ³⁵⁻⁴¹	<u>Luke 8</u> ^{1-3,26-39}
13	Matthew 10 ³⁴⁻⁴²	Mark 5 ²¹⁻⁴³	Luke 9 ⁵¹⁻⁶²
14	Matthew 11 ^{18-19,25-30}	Mark 6 ¹⁻⁶	Luke 10 ^{1-11,17-20,23-24}
15	Matthew 13 ^{1-8,18-23}	<u>Mark 6</u> ⁷⁻¹³	Luke 10 ²⁵⁻³⁷
16	Matthew 13 ²⁴⁻³⁰	Mark 6 ³⁰⁻³⁴	Luke 10 ³⁸⁻⁴²
17	Matthew 13 ^{31-33,44-46}	John 6 ¹⁻²¹	Luke 11 ¹⁻¹³
18	Matthew 14 ¹³⁻²¹	John 6 ²²⁻³⁵	Luke 12 ¹³⁻²¹
19	Matthew 14 ²²⁻³³	John 6 ⁴¹⁻⁵¹	<u>Luke 12</u> ²²⁻³⁶
20	Matthew 15 ²¹⁻²⁸	John 6 ⁵¹⁻⁵⁸	Luke 12 ⁴⁹⁻⁵⁶
21	Matthew 16 ¹³⁻²⁰	John 6 ⁶⁰⁻⁶⁹	<u>Luke 13</u> ¹⁰⁻¹⁷
22	Matthew 16 ²¹⁻²⁶	Mark 7 ^{1-8, 14-15, 21-23}	Luke 14 ^{1,7-14}
23	Matthew 18 ¹⁵⁻²⁰	Mark 7 ²⁴⁻³⁷	Luke 14 ²⁵⁻³³
24	Matthew 18 ²¹⁻³⁵	Mark 8 ²⁷⁻³⁶	Luke 15 ¹⁻¹⁰
25	Matthew 20 ¹⁻¹⁶	Mark 9 ³⁰⁻³⁷	Luke 16 ¹⁻¹³
26	Matthew 21 ²³⁻³²	Mark 9 ³⁸⁻⁵⁰	Luke 16 ^{13b-15,19-31}
27	Matthew 21 ^{33-41,43}	Mark 10 ¹³⁻¹⁶	Luke 17 ⁵⁻¹⁰
28	Matthew 22 ¹⁻¹⁴	Mark 10 ¹⁷⁻³¹	Luke 17 ¹¹⁻¹⁹
29	Matthew 22 ¹⁵⁻²²	Mark 10 ³⁵⁻⁴⁵	Luke 18 ^{1-8a}
30	Matthew 22 ³⁵⁻⁴⁰	Mark 10 ^{46b-52}	Luke 18 ⁹⁻¹⁴
31	Matthew 23 ²⁻¹²	Mark 12 ^{28-34a}	Luke 19 ¹⁻¹⁰
32	Matthew 25 ¹⁻¹³	<u>Mark 12</u> ³⁸⁻⁴⁴	<u>Luke 19</u> ⁴¹⁻⁴⁸
33	Matthew 25 ¹⁴⁻²⁹	<u>Mark 13</u> ¹⁻¹³	Luke 21 ⁵⁻¹⁹
34	Matthew 25 ³¹⁻⁴⁶	John 18 ^{33b-37}	Luke 23 ³³⁻⁴³

The underlinings above indicate those occasions where the gospel reading for the day may vary between lectionaries.

SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospel for the year.

This includes keeping the Second Sunday before Lent and the Last Sunday before Lent as Sundays in Ordinary Time, each complete with the gospel for the day, rather than displacing them to make way for a Creation or Transfiguration theme.

The Transfiguration is observed on the Second Sunday of Lent, as in LFM and RCL.

The Gospel readings for the fifteen Sundays of the Easter series are consistent across all lectionaries, except for the question of the Transfiguration reading on the Second Sunday of Lent, and different options for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

The Gospel readings in the Christmas series are consistent across all lectionaries through Advent and on Christmas Day, with variations limited to the two weeks between 26 December and 8 January. SSRA handles the practical lull experienced in most churches between Christmas and the Epiphany by celebrating Saint John the Evangelist on the first Sunday after Christmas (providing a different set of readings for each year), and moving the Holy Family readings from Saint Luke (including The Presentation) into January of Year C. The Epiphany is then kept on any Sunday falling between 2 and 6 January - with different Old Testament and Epistle readings provided for each year. The main programme for the year then begins resolutely on 7 January.

Old Testament readings and Epistles have less impact on the compatibility of lectionary-based resources, as the gospel is usually taken as the lead reading for the day; but Old Testament readings do occasionally vary, and epistle readings are occasionally out of sync - although the same epistles are always being read at the same time (with the one exception of a CW excursion into Revelation for three Sundays early in Year B).

The Acts of the Apostles is read in all lectionaries during Eastertide, but there is wide variation in the selection and arrangement of the readings. SSRA arranges readings from Acts across three annual themes: Year A highlights the early days in Jerusalem, Year B the emerging inclusion of the Gentiles, and Year C the ministry of Saint Paul.

The wedding at Cana (John 2.1-11) appears in sequence in Saint John's gospel in January of Year B, which is one of the options in CW.

All Saints Sunday is an option in CW for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Fourth Sunday before Advent, the Sunday between 30 October and 5 November). SSRA has readings on that date suitable for an observation of All Saints / All Souls Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

Remembrance Sunday is kept in the UK on the second Sunday in November, which is either the Thirty-second or the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Third or Second Sunday before Advent). SSRA has readings on both these Sundays suitable for an observation of Remembrance Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

For Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, SSRA provides different readings for each year of the three year cycle. The Maundy Thursday readings are themed: in Year A, the Lamb of God; in Year B, service to others (the washing of the disciples' feet); and in Year C, the Bread of Life.

Finally, some lectionaries offer readings for a Mothering Sunday theme on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, a Bible Sunday theme on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (CW 'Last after Trinity'), plus Saints Days and other Festivals. In these cases, as elsewhere, SSRA prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

How to use SSRA

It is possible to dip in and out of SSRA during the year - but part of the purpose of SSRA is to take all the hard work out of finding, choosing, printing, and distributing the Sunday morning bible readings, for every Sunday of the year. When you adopt SSRA as a church, parish, or benefice, you can refer everyone who needs to know the readings for the day to the ssra.uk website, where they can see the readings for the day, and browse through the readings for the year.

The SSRA Translation

SSRA features a new translation prepared specifically for reading aloud, in ordinary churches, on ordinary Sunday mornings: to be easy on the eye, and on the voice, for the reader, so that the reader can read with confidence; and to be easy on the ear, for the hearer, who should be able to follow the reading, without needing a printed text, even on first hearing. Verses are occasionally rearranged to make a passage easier to follow when read aloud. A preacher may wish to refer to a more literal study translation (or indeed the original Greek or Hebrew) when making a word-by-word or line-by-line analysis of the text.

Additional resources and downloads are available online at ssra.uk

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

First Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 33.14-16*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfil
the promise I made
to the people of Israel
and the house of Judah.

For I will raise up
a new Son of David, who will bring
justice and righteousness
to the land.

In those days,
Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem
will live in safety.

And they will declare
that the Lord
is their justice,
their righteousness,
and their salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Thessalonians 3.6-13*

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

Timothy has brought us the good news
of your continuing
faith and love;

and tells us
that you long to see us again,
just as we long to see you.

This news has given us
great encouragement
through difficult times.

It renews our strength,
to know
that you stand firm in the Lord.

So every day now, with great joy,
we give thanks to God for you,
and we pray

that we will see you soon,
to teach and encourage you in your faith
once again.

May our God and Father, and our Lord Jesus,
direct our way to you soon.

And until then, may the Lord
make your love for one another
and for everyone
continue to grow,

even as we have
such great love for you.

And may the Lord strengthen your hearts
in holiness,

that you may be ready
to meet our God and Father,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus,
with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 21.25-28,34-36*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said,
'In those days, even
the powers of the heavens
will be shaken:
the sun
and the moon
and the stars.

On the earth,
there will be distress
amongst the nations;
and in the oceans,
the thundering
of the waves.

And people
will be in fear
for all
that is coming
upon the world.

Then they will see
the Son of Man,
coming
in a cloud,
with power
and great glory.

When these things
begin to take place,
stand up,
and raise your heads,
because your salvation
is drawing near.

These things
will come upon
all who live
on the face
of the whole earth -
so be ready.

Do not
let your hearts
be weighed down
by the excesses
and worries
of this present age,

for that day
to catch you
unexpectedly.

Be alert
at all times,
praying
that you will have the strength

to escape
all these things,
and to stand,
on that day,
in the presence
of the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER*Second Sunday of Advent***FIRST READING – Malachi 3.1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of me,to prepare the way,
says the Lord of hosts.And indeed, the one you seek,
the one you desire,
the messenger of the covenant -

I am coming to my temple, says the Lord.

But who can
endure that day?And who can stand
when the Lord appears?For the Lord will come
like a refiner's fire,to purify the people,
refining them
like silver and gold,until their offerings
are once again
pleasing
to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Philippians 1.3-6,8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I give thanks to God
every time I remember you,and I am joyful
in my prayers for you,because of the way
you have shared
in the work of the gospelfrom the time
you first heard the word.And I am confident
that the one who began a good work amongst you
will bring it to completion
on the day of Jesus Christ.With all the compassion of Christ Jesus,
I pray for you earnestly.I pray that you may be
so filled with love
that your love overflows
to all around you.I pray that you may grow
in knowledge, and insight, and discernment.I pray that through Jesus Christ,
you may produce
a full harvest
of righteousness
to the praise and glory of God.And I pray
that you may be found
pure and blameless
on the day of Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 3.1-6Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.In the fifteenth year
of the reign
of the emperor Tiberius,when Pontius Pilate
was governor of Judea,
and Herodwas ruler over Galilee,
the word of Godcame to John,
the son of Zekariah,
in the wilderness.John went out
through all the region
of the Jordan,proclaiming
a baptism
of repentance
for the forgiveness
of sins;as it is written
in the book
of the prophet Isaiah:'A voice cries out
in the wilderness,Prepare
the way of the Lord!Fill the valleys,
level the hills,
straighten the paths,
and make
the rough ways
smooth.And all who live
shall see
the saving power
of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER*Third Sunday of Advent***FIRST READING – Zephaniah 3.14-20**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O Zion!

Shout out, O Israel!

Rejoice with all your heart, O Jerusalem!

For the Lord has

taken away

the judgements made against you.

The Lord has

turned away your enemies.

No more harm

will come to you,

for the Lord, the king of Israel, is with you.

Stay strong,

and do not fear,

O Zion;

for the Lord your God

is with you

as a mighty saviour.

The Lord says, 'I will delight in you,

and sing, and rejoice.

I will hold you

in my constant love.

I will free you

from all your oppressors.

I will rescue the lame,

and gather in

all who were

driven away.

I will gather you together

and bring you home.

And instead of shame,

you will have praise, and honour,

in all the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry

about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses

all understanding,

will protect

your hearts

and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 3.7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When the crowds

came to the Jordan

to be baptised by John,

John addressed them,

saying: 'You brood of vipers!

Who warned you

to flee

from the judgement

that is coming?

Bear fruit

that is worthy

of repentance!

And do not begin to say,

"but we have Abraham as our father",

for I tell you,

God could turn these stones

into children of Abraham!

The axe is ready,

and any tree

that does not bear good fruit

will be cut down

and thrown into the fire!

The crowds asked John,

'What should we do?'

He said to them, 'Whoever has

two coats

must share

with whoever has none.

And whoever has food

must do likewise.'

Tax collectors came to be baptised,

and they asked him, 'Teacher,

what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Collect only

what you have been ordered to collect.'

Soldiers also asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Do not extort money

using threats, and false accusations,

but be content with what you are paid.'

The people were filled with expectation,

wondering

whether John might even be the Messiah.

John answered them, saying,

'I baptise you

with water,

but after me

comes another who is

more powerful;

and I am not worthy

even to be his servant.

He will baptise you

with the Holy Spirit, and with fire,

and he will separate

the wheat from the chaff.'

With these, and many other

words and challenges,

John proclaimed the good news

to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING – *Micah 5.2-5a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem,
are one of the smallest
of all
the clans
of Judah.

And yet from you
will come
the one who is to rule
for me
in all Israel,
whose origin
is long ago, in ancient days,
says the Lord.

Israel will be desolate
until the mother
brings forth this child.
But then all Israel
will be gathered together.

And this child
will stand tall,
and tend the flock,
as a good shepherd,
in the strength of the Lord,
and in the majesty
of the name
of the Lord God.

And the people
will dwell
in peace.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 10.1,4-7,10*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The old law
contained only a shadow
of the good things
that were yet to come.
Under that law, the same sacrifices
were offered continually, year after year,
demonstrating
that they can never make perfect
those who offer them;
that it is impossible
for the blood
of bulls
and goats
to take away sin.

So when Christ
comes into the world, he says,
'Sacrifices and offerings
you have not desired.
In burnt-offerings, and sin-offerings,
you have taken no pleasure.
But a body you have given me.
See, O God,
I have come to do your will.'

And so,
it is by God's will
that we have now been
sanctified
through the offering
of the body
of Jesus Christ,
once for all.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 1.39-55*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Mary set out
and went with haste
to a town
in the hill country of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zekariah,
and greeted Elizabeth.

And Elizabeth,
filled with the Holy Spirit, said to Mary,
'Blessed are you
amongst women!
And blessed is the child
that you will bear!
And blessed am I, that the mother of my Lord
should come to me!

For as soon as I heard your greeting,
the child in my womb leapt for joy!
Blessed indeed are you, for trusting
that the message
spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said,
'My soul
now gives praise
to the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God my Saviour.

For you, O Lord,
have looked with favour
on your lowly servant.
All generations will call me blessed,
for you, O Lord, have done great things for me.
Holy is your name!
Your mercy is on all who honour you,
in every generation.

You have
revealed your power,
and scattered the proud
in their vanity.
You have brought down the powerful,
and lifted up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

In your everlasting mercy
you have come to the aid
of your servant, Israel,
fulfilling the promise you made
to our ancestors, to Abraham
and his descendants, for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9.2,6-7a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

On those who dwell
in the land of deep darkness -
on them, the light will shine.

For a child is born to us,
a son to rule over us,
and he shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
and Prince of Peace.

From the throne of David,
he will extend for ever
his kingdom of righteousness,
justice, and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Philippians 2.5-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul
to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus
be your example.

He did not regard
his equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,
he humbled himself,
in faithful obedience,
even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,
and has given him the name
that is above every name,

so that
at the name of Jesus,
all shall bow down,
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory
of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 2.1,3-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

An order went out, from the emperor,
that all the world
should be registered,
each in their own town.

Joseph, a descendant of David,
was engaged to Mary, who was expecting a child,
so they travelled together
to the city of David,
Bethlehem, in Judea.

While they were there,
the time came
for the child
to be born,
and Mary gave birth
to her firstborn, a son.

She wrapped the child in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them
at the inn.

Out in the fields, there were shepherds,
keeping watch
through the night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord
shone around them,
and they were afraid.

The angel said, 'Do not be afraid.
I bring good news
of great joy
for all people.

Today, in the city of David,
there is born a Saviour,
the Messiah,
the Lord.

This will be the sign for you:
you will find the child
wrapped in bands of cloth,
and lying in a manger.'

A vast choir of angels appeared, proclaiming,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven!
Peace on earth,
and God's blessings on all people!'

The shepherds made their way quickly
to Bethlehem,
where they found Mary and Joseph,
and the child, lying in the manger.

When the shepherds made known
the message of the angels,
all who heard it
were amazed.

And Mary treasured all these words,
and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all that they had
seen and heard.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

Christmas Day

FIRST READING – Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Those who keep watch
are shouting out
with joy.

For they see, on the mountains,
the messenger
approaching,
bringing good news
of salvation, and peace;
good news
of the triumph
of our God.

Join in their song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!

For all the world
will see the Lord
returning to Zion,
with mercy and strength,
declaring
that your freedom
has been won.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Hebrews 1.1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago,

God spoke to our ancestors,
in many and various ways,
by the prophets,

but in these last days,

God has spoken to us
by a Son,

appointed by God
as inheritor
of all things,

the reflection
of God's glory,

the exact imprint
of God's very being.

Present with God

at the creation of the universe,
and sustaining

all creation
by his powerful word,

he has

reconciled us to God,

and is seated now,

higher even than the angels,

at the right hand
of God's Majesty

on high.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 1.1-12,14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

In the beginning
was the Word,

and the Word
was with God,

and the Word
was God.

The Word
was in the beginning
with God.

Through the Word,
all things
came into being.

And in the Word
was life -

the life
that was the light
of all people.

That light
now shines
in the darkness,

and the darkness
has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.

John himself
was not the light,

but came
to bear witness
to the light,
so that all might believe.

The true light,
bringing light to all,
was coming
into the world.

He was in the world -
the world that came into being through him -
and yet the world
did not know him.

He came to his own,
and his own

did not
receive him.

But all who did
receive him -
all who believed in his name -
he called

to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh,
and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -
the glory

of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

Saint John the Evangelist

FIRST READING – 1 Kings 19.9a, 11-13a

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah arrived at the mountain of God.

He entered a cave,
and stayed there overnight.

In the morning, the word of the Lord
came to Elijah, saying, 'Go out,
and stand on the mountain,
for the Lord is about to pass by.'

And there came a great wind, so strong
that it was breaking rocks, from the mountains,
into pieces; but the Lord
was not in the wind.

And after the wind,
there was an earthquake; but the Lord
was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake, a fire; but the Lord
was not in the fire.

And after the fire,
a still, small voice,
like a breath, or a whisper.

When Elijah heard it,
he wrapped his cloak around his face,
and went out,
and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And then
came the voice
of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 1 John 4.9-12, 16b

A reading from the first letter of John.

God's love for us
is revealed in this:

that God sent
God's only Son
into the world
that we might live
through him.

And this is love:
not that we loved God,
but that God loved us,
and sent God's Son
to be the atoning sacrifice
for our sin.

My brothers and sisters,
as God has loved us,
so we should love one another.

No one has ever seen God;
and yet, if we love one another,
God lives in us,
and God's love
is perfected in us.

God is love,
and those who live in love
live in God,
and God lives in them.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 1.1-12, 14, 16-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

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

The Word
was in the beginning
with God.

Through the Word,
all things
came into being.

And in the Word
was life -
the life
that was the light
of all people.

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

There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.

John himself
was not the light,
but came
to bear witness
to the light,
so that all might believe.

The true light,
bringing light to all,
was coming
into the world.

He was in the world -
the world that came into being through him -
and yet the world
did not know him.

He came to his own,
and his own
did not receive him.

But all who did receive him -
all who believed in his name -
he called
to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh,
and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -
the glory of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

From these riches of grace and truth,
we have all received, grace upon grace.

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

No one has ever seen God;
but the only Son, who is
close to the Father's heart,
has made God known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

The Epiphany

FIRST READING – *Micah 4.1-3*

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The time will come
when the mountain
of the house
of the Lord
will be the greatest
of all mountains,
high above the hills.
People of all nations will say,
'The teaching of the Lord
comes from Mount Zion,
and the word of the Lord
from Jerusalem.
So let us go up
to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house
of the God of Jacob,
to learn there
how to walk
in the right path.'
Then the Lord
will bring justice and peace
to the nations.
They shall take their weapons of war,
their swords and their spears,
and re-work them
into ploughs
and pruning-hooks.
No longer
shall nation
lift up sword
against nation;
neither shall they
learn war
any more.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

By the grace of God,
I have been commissioned
to make known to you
a glorious truth
that was unknown
to former generations.
But now, by the Holy Spirit,
this glorious truth
has been revealed
to God's apostles and prophets:
that people of all nations
are our brothers and sisters
in Christ Jesus -
members of the same body,
and inheritors
of the same promise.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Matthew 2.1-12*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born
(in Bethlehem of Judea),
Magi from the East
came to Jerusalem,
asking, 'Where is the child
who is born
to be king of the Jews?
For we observed his star, at its rising,
and we have come to pay him homage.'
When King Herod heard this,
he was troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.
He called together
the chief priests and the scribes,
and enquired of them
where the Messiah
was to be born.
They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for it is written in the prophets:
"You, O Bethlehem,
in the land of Judah,
are by no means least
amongst the rulers of Judah;
for from you
shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd
my people Israel."
Then Herod called secretly for the Magi,
and learned from them
the exact time
at which the star had appeared.
Then he sent them to Bethlehem,
saying, 'Go and search for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word,
so that I may also go
and pay him homage.'
So the Magi set out,
and there, ahead of them,
went the star
which they had seen at its rising;
until it stopped over the place
where they would find the child.
When they saw that the star
had stopped,
they were filled with joy.
On entering the house,
they saw the child,
with Mary his mother,
and they knelt down, and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream
not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country
by another road.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 43.1b-3a,4a,5-7*

A reading from prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says, 'Do not be afraid.

I have called you by name, and you are mine.

When you pass through deep waters,

I will be with you, and the rivers will not overwhelm you.

When you walk through fire,

you will not be burned, and the flames will not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Do not be afraid,

for I am with you.

I will gather you, and your descendants,

from the East, and from the West,

my sons and daughters

from the North and from the South.

From the ends of the earth

I will gather together

all I created for my glory

and called by my name.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 2.14-15,17-18*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Jesus, by sharing in our human flesh and blood,

has, through his death,

destroyed the power of death;

and has freed

those who were held captive

by the fear of death.

By becoming like us, in every respect,

Jesus was able to serve

as a faithful and merciful high priest,

making a sacrifice of atonement

for the sins of the people.

And having been tested himself,

by what he suffered,

he is able, now, to help

those who face the same trials.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 2.22-40*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

In the law of the Lord, it is written

that every firstborn male

must be dedicated to the Lord.

So on the fortieth day after his birth,

Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem

to present him to the Lord,

and to offer a sacrifice,

in accordance with the law of the Lord,

'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was, in Jerusalem,

a man named Simeon, who was

righteous, and devout.

And it had been revealed to Simeon,
by the Holy Spirit,

that he would not see death

until he had seen

the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit,

Simeon came to the temple that day.

And when Mary and Joseph

brought in the child Jesus,

Simeon took the child in his arms,

and praised God, saying, 'Now, Lord,

you dismiss your servant in peace,

fulfilling the word that you have spoken.

For my own eyes have now seen

the salvation, which you have prepared

in the sight of all,

to be the light that enlightens all nations,

and to be the glory of your people Israel.'

The child's father and mother

were amazed

at what was being said about the child;

and Simeon blessed them.

Then Simeon said to Mary, 'This child

will cause the falling

and the rising

of many in Israel,

and will be a sign

that many will oppose.

The inner thoughts

of many hearts

will be revealed.

And a sword

will pierce

your own soul, also.'

There was also

a prophetess, Anna,

the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was of a great age,

having lived with her husband

for seven years, after her marriage,

and then having lived

as a widow, to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the temple,

but worshipped there, night and day,

with fasting and prayer.

She also approached, and began

to praise God, and to speak about the child

to all who were

looking for the salvation

of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary

had fulfilled

everything required

by the law of the Lord,

they returned to Galilee,

to their own town of Nazareth.

And the child grew,

and became strong,

and filled with wisdom.

And the favour of God

was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 1.4-10*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me,
saying, 'Before you were even born,
I chose you,
and I appointed you
to be a prophet
to the nations.'

And I said, 'O Lord, I do not know
how to speak, for I am only a child.'

But the Lord said to me, 'Do not be afraid,
and do not say
that you are only a child,
for I am with you
to protect you,
and you will speak my word
to many nations.'

Then the Lord touched my lips,
and said, 'Now I have put my words
into your mouth.

See, today I appoint you
over kingdoms and nations,
to uproot, and overthrow,
destroy, and tear down,
build up, and plant anew.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 12.4-11*

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

There are many different gifts,
but only one Spirit.

There are different kinds of ministry,
but all serving the same Lord.

There are different activities,
but in all of them, and in everyone,
it is the same God at work.

And the work of the Spirit, in each individual,
is given
for the good of all.

Through the Spirit,
one person receives the gift of wisdom.

Another, by the same Spirit, receives the gift
of knowledge.

In the same Spirit, another receives the gift of faith.

Another receives gifts
of healing,
and another receives the gift
of the working of miracles.

Others, in the same Spirit,
receive the gifts
of prophecy, discernment,
languages, and interpretation.

All these gifts
are the work of the one Holy Spirit, who
distributes
these gifts
as the Holy Spirit wills.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 2.41-52*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Every year,
Jesus' parents
went to Jerusalem
for the festival of the Passover.

When Jesus was twelve years old,
they went to Jerusalem
as usual
for the festival.

At the end of the festival,
when they left Jerusalem, to return to Nazareth,
the boy Jesus
stayed behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,
they went a day's journey,
then started to look for him
amongst their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him,
they returned to Jerusalem
to search for him.

After three days,
they found him in the temple,
sitting amongst the teachers.

He was listening to the teachers,
and asking them questions.

And all who heard him
were amazed
at his understanding, and his answers.

When his parents saw him,
they were overwhelmed.

And his mother said to him, 'My child,
why have you done this to us?

Your father and I
have been searching for you
in great distress.'

But Jesus said to them, 'Why were you
searching for me?

Surely you knew that I must be
in my Father's house.'

But they did not understand
what Jesus said to them.

Then Jesus returned
with them
to Nazareth,
and he was obedient to them.

And his mother
treasured all these things
in her heart.

And Jesus grew in wisdom, and in stature;
and in favour with God,
and with the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 7-10*

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

On the first day
of the seventh month,
all the people gathered together
in the public square
next to the city's main well.
Ezra the priest
stood on a wooden platform
which had been built, specially for the day,
and read
from the book of the law of Moses,
the law
which the Lord had given
to the people of Israel,
from early morning,
until midday.
All the people
gave their full attention
to the reading of the book of the law.
And the Levites
gave the interpretation, and the meaning,
so that the people could understand
all that was being read.
And the people wept
when they heard and understood
the words of the law.
But Nehemiah the governor,
and Ezra the priest,
and the Levites who taught the people,
said to the people,
'Do not mourn or weep,
for this day is holy
to the Lord your God.
Make a feast
of the best food and wine,
and send portions
to any who have nothing to prepare,
for this day is holy to the Lord.
Do not grieve,
for the joy of the Lord
is your strength.'
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 12.12-20,27-31*

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

Just as the body
is one body, with many parts,
so we, though many,
are one body, in Christ.
For in the one Spirit
we were all baptised
into one body -
whether Hebrews or Greeks,
slaves or free.
And we all receive
the same Holy Spirit.

And this body
does not consist of one part,
but of many.
The foot is no less
a part of the body
than the hand.
And the ear is no less
a part of the body
than the eye.
If the whole body were an eye,
it would not be able to hear.
And if the whole body were an ear,
it would have no sense of smell.
But God has arranged
that many parts make up
the whole body.
Now you are the body of Christ,
and each individually a part of it.
God has appointed in the church
apostles, prophets, and teachers;
then works of power, gifts of healing,
roles of support and leadership,
and different ways of speaking.
Not all are apostles, prophets, or teachers;
not all work miracles,
or have gifts of healing, speaking or interpretation.
But all should strive for the greater gifts -
and the greatest gift is love.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 4.14-21*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Filled with the power of the Spirit,
Jesus returned, from the wilderness, to Galilee,
and news about him
spread throughout the region.
He began to teach in the synagogues
and everyone spoke well of him.
In Nazareth, where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue, as usual,
on the sabbath day.
He stood up to read, and the scroll
of the prophet Isaiah
was handed to him.
He found the place where it is written,
'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives,
and recovery of sight to the blind;
to free the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
He rolled up the scroll,
gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.
The eyes of everyone in the synagogue
were fixed on him.
And he said to them, 'Today,
this scripture
is being fulfilled.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 1.17-19*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

‘Make yourself ready
to stand up and proclaim
the whole of the message
that I give to you.

Do not be afraid,
for I will make you strong
like a fortified city,
like a pillar of iron, like a wall of bronze,
to challenge the whole
of the land of Judah:
to challenge the kings, and the princes,
the priests, and the people.

They will fight against you;
but they will not
prevail against you,
for I am with you,
and I will deliver you,’ says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 12.31b - 13.13*

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

Let me show you now

the most excellent gift of all.

If I speak in the languages of both earth and heaven,
but do not have love,

I am only a noisy gong, or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the power of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge,

and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love,

I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body to martyrdom,
but do not have love,

I gain nothing.

Love is patient, and kind;
not envious, or arrogant, or boastful, or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way.

Love is not easily angered, or resentful.

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

Love rejoices in the truth.

Love has strength, and faith, and confidence,
that endure, and never fail.

Love never ends.

But our voices will fall silent.

Our prophecies and our knowledge
will come to an end.

For they are only partial;
and when completion comes,
the partial will vanish away.

When I was a child, I spoke,
and thought, and reasoned, like a child;

but when I became an adult,
I put an end to childish ways.

In the same way, now, we see partially,
as though

looking through

darkened glass;

but then, we shall see face to face.

Now, I know only in part;

but then, I will know fully, even as I am
fully known.

And through all this change,
these three things endure:

faith, and hope, and love.

And the greatest of these
is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 4.21-30*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

In the synagogue at Nazareth,

after reading from the prophet Isaiah,

Jesus said to them, ‘Today,

this scripture

is being fulfilled.’

All the people

spoke well of him,

and of the gracious words that were now being spoken
by the son of Joseph.

Jesus said to them, ‘I know you will quote to me

the proverb that says, “Doctor, cure yourself,”

and ask me to do here, in my home town,

the things that I did at Capernaum.

But no prophet

has ever been accepted

in their home town.

There were many widows

in Israel,

during the famine,

in the time

of the prophet Elijah;

but Elijah was not sent

to any of the widows in Israel,

but to a widow

in Sarepta, in Lebanon.

And there were many people with leprosy,

in Israel,

in the time

of the prophet Elisha;

but the only person healed

was Naaman, the Syrian.’

When those who were gathered in the synagogue

heard this,

they were filled with indignation.

They rose up together

and forced Jesus

out of the town,

and all the way

to the edge of the hill

on which the town was built,

as if to throw him off.

But he passed through the crowd

and went on his way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 6.1-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

It was in the year
that King Uzziah died
that I saw the Lord, sitting
on a high throne,
in robes
that filled the temple.
Angels, around the Lord,
called out
to one another, saying:
'Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is filled
with the glory of the Lord.'
Their voices shook
the very foundations
of the temple,
and the temple was filled with smoke.
I said: 'I am ruined!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live amongst a people
of unclean lips;
and my eyes have seen the King,
the Lord of hosts!'
Then one of the angels flew to me,
and touched my lips
with a burning coal
that had been taken from the altar,
saying, 'Now that this
has touched your lips,
your guilt is removed,
and your sin is forgiven.'
Then I heard
the voice of the Lord,
saying, 'Is there anyone I can send?'
And I said,
'Here I am; send me.'
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.1-10a*

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

Let me remind you again,
my brothers and sisters,
of the good news
that you received, which is now
your firm foundation,
and in which you are saved:
that Christ died for our sins, and was buried;
and that he was raised on the third day -
and all this
in fulfilment of the scriptures.
After he was raised from the dead,
he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve,
then to more than
five hundred brothers and sisters
at one time.

Then he appeared to James;
then to all the apostles.
And last of all,
he appeared also to me,
as to one
untimely born,
unfit to be called
even the least of the apostles,
because I persecuted
the church of God.
But by the grace of God,
I am what I am.
And God's grace towards me
has not been in vain.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 5.1-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee,
and the crowd was pressing in on him
to hear the word of God.
There were two boats by the shore, belonging
to fishermen, who were washing their nets.
Jesus climbed into the boat belonging to Simon,
and asked him
to put out a little way from the shore.
Then Jesus sat down
and taught the crowds from the boat.
When Jesus had finished speaking to the crowds,
Jesus said to Simon, 'Take the boat out
to the deep water,
and let down the nets, for a catch.'
Simon answered, 'Master,
we worked all night, and caught nothing;
but at your word, I will let down the nets
once more.'
And they did so; and they caught so many fish
that their nets
were beginning to break.
They signalled to their partners,
James and John (the sons of Zebedee),
to come and help them,
and they filled
both boats
with so great a catch of fish
that they began to sink;
and they were all
overwhelmed
at the great catch of fish
that they had taken.
Simon Peter
fell to his knees before Jesus,
saying, 'Leave me, Lord,
for I am a sinful man!'
But Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid.
From now on,
you will be fishing for people.'
And when they had brought their boats to shore,
they left everything,
and followed Jesus.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 17.5-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Tragedy awaits

those who place their trust
in mortals,
for they take human flesh as their strength,
and they turn their hearts
away from the Lord.

They are like

dried out plants in the desert.
They will not live to see the day
of relief and prosperity.

But blessed

are those who place their trust
in the Lord.

They are like

trees planted by water,
with roots in the flowing stream.

They need not fear

the scorching heat,
for even in the year of drought,
their leaves will be green,
and their fruit will be plentiful.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.12-20*

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

We proclaim that Christ
is risen from the dead.

And yet still

some of you say
that there is no
resurrection
of the dead.

But if there is no
resurrection of the dead,

then Christ

has not been raised.

And if Christ

has not been raised,

our preaching

has been in vain,

and your faith

has been in vain;

and we are even found

to be misrepresenting God,

for we proclaim

that God raised Christ from the dead!

So: if there is no resurrection,

then Christ has not been raised;

and if Christ has not been raised,

your faith is futile,

and you are still lost in your sins;

and those who have died in Christ

have perished.

Truly, if we have trusted in Christ
for this life only,
we should be pitied.

But Christ has been

raised from the dead!

And the Risen Christ

is the first fruits

of all those who have died -

the first fruits

of all those who will indeed

be raised again to life!

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 6.17-26*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus came down from the mountain,
with the twelve apostles.

They met there, at the foot of the mountain,
with a great crowd of disciples.

And an even greater multitude had gathered,
from as far away as

Judea and Jerusalem, in the south,
and the coastal districts of

Tyre and Sidon, in Lebanon, in the north,
to hear Jesus,

and to be healed of their diseases.

Those who were troubled with unclean spirits
were healed;

and all those in the crowd
were trying to touch him,

for power came out from him, and healed them.

Jesus looked at them,

and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be full.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you

when people hate you, avoid you,
insult you, and slander you,
on account of the Son of Man.

Their ancestors

did the same

to the prophets,

so rejoice

when they do this to you,
for surely
your reward is great in heaven.

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your comfort.

Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

And woe to you

when all speak well of you,
for that is how their ancestors
spoke of the false prophets.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 26.7-13,22-24

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

That night, David went, with his nephew,
to the place where Saul
and his army
had set up camp.

They found Saul, asleep, within the camp,
with his spear, stuck in the ground, beside him,
and his chief military officer, and his soldiers,
sleeping around him.

David's nephew
said to David, 'God has given your enemy
into your hands. Let me pin him to the ground,
with one stroke of his own spear.
I will not need to strike him twice.'

But David said to his nephew, 'Do not kill him,
for you would bear the guilt
of raising your hand
against the Lord's anointed.

Let it be the Lord who strikes him down,
when his day comes to die;
or let him go into battle, and perish there.

Let us take his spear,
and his water jar, and go.'

And no one saw it, or knew of it;
and no one awoke,
for the Lord had made a deep sleep
fall upon them.

The following morning,
David stood
on top of a hill,
on the other side of the valley,
and across that great distance,

David called out to Saul,
'Here is your spear, O king!
Let one of the young men
come over and retrieve it!

The Lord gave you into my hand today,
but I would not raise my hand
against the Lord's anointed.

The Lord rewards
the righteous and the faithful.
And as I valued your life today,
so may the Lord value my life,
and deliver me
from all danger and distress.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 1 Cor 15.35-37a,42-44,49

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

Some ask, 'How will the dead be raised,
and what kind of body will they have?'

Consider a seed, from a plant:
first it must die;
then it is planted in the ground,
and it comes to life again.

What you sow in the ground is not
the plant
that the seed will become.

What you sow in the ground
is only the dry seed.

And this is how it is
with the resurrection of the dead.

What is sown is mortal, but what is raised
will live for ever.

Sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory;
sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
sown a physical body,
it is raised a spiritual body.

We have lived
in the image of Adam, who came
from the earth, from the dust;

we shall rise
in the image of Christ,
who comes from heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 6.27-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said to them, 'Love your enemies.
Do good to those who hate you.

Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who abuse you.

If someone strikes you on the cheek,
offer the other as well.

If someone takes away your coat,
offer your shirt as well.

Give to everyone who asks,
and if anyone takes what belongs to you,
do not demand it back.

Do to others
as you would have them do to you.

Even sinners love those who love them.

Even sinners do good
to those who are good to them,
and lend when they expect a return.

But I say to you: love your enemies.

And do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return.

And your reward will be great,
for you will be like children of the Most High.

For God is generous,
even to the ungrateful, and the wicked.

So be merciful, as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge others,
and you will not be judged.

Do not condemn others,
and you will not be condemned.

Forgive others,
and you will be forgiven.

Give, and you will receive -
a good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, running over,
will be poured into your lap -
for the measure you give
will be the measure you receive.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 55.10-13*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return there
until they have watered the earth,
making it fruitful with grain,
producing bread to eat,
and new seed to sow.
In the same way, says the Lord,
the word that I speak
will not return to me
without accomplishing
all that I intend, and succeeding
in the purpose for which I sent it.
And where once
there were thorns and brambles,
tall and blossoming trees
will grow;
and this will be a memorial,
an everlasting sign,
to honour the name of the Lord.
And you will go out with joy,
and return in peace;
and the trees of the field
will clap their hands,
and the mountains and the hills
will break into song.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.51b-57*

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

Those of us who are still alive
when the last trumpet sounds
will not die, but will be transformed,
in that moment, in the blink of an eye.
The trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised,
and we will be changed,
as the mortal
is transformed
to immortality.
And the word of the prophet
will have been fulfilled,
for death itself will have been defeated:
'swallowed up in victory'.
The power of death
was in sin,
and the power of sin
was in the law.
But thanks be to God, who has defeated
all the powers of death,
and has won for us the victory,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 6.39-49*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus taught them in parables,
saying, 'They are like
the blind
leading the blind.
The one who is learning
can do
no better
than the one who is teaching.
And the one who
completes their learning
will become
like their teacher.
You should not
be trying
to remove a speck
from someone else's eye
while you still have a log
in your own.
You know a tree
by its fruit:
you do not find figs
on a thorn bush,
or grapes
on a bramble;
a good tree
produces good fruit,
and a bad tree
produces bad fruit;
in the same way,
a good person
produces good words and deeds
from the goodness
stored up in their heart;
while a wicked person
produces wicked words and deeds
from the wickedness stored up in their heart.
And in the same way,
if you call me Lord,
you should surely act
on what I say;
for if you come to me,
and hear my words,
and act on them,
you are building a house on
deep foundations,
dug right down to the rock,
so that when the flood comes,
it will stand secure.
But those who hear my words,
and do not act
on what they hear -
they are building a house
without foundations,
and it will fall
when the floods
rise against it.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH

Ash Wednesday

FIRST READING – *Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19*

A reading from the book of Daniel.

With Jerusalem lying in ruins,

I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God
to plead in prayer,
with fasting,
and in sackcloth
and ashes.

And I prayed

to the Lord my God,
making confession, and saying,
'O Lord, great and awesome God,
you keep your covenant, in steadfast love,
towards those who
love you, and keep your commandments.

But we have sinned, and done wrong.

We have acted wickedly, and rebelled.

We have turned aside

from your commandments and decrees.

We have not listened to your servants

the prophets, who have spoken in your name,
in every generation.

O Lord our God, hear the prayer of your servant;

and for your own sake, O Lord,

look with pity
upon the desolate ruins
of your holy temple.

Hear my cry, O Lord our God,

and look upon the desolation
of the people, and the city,
that bear your name.

In this our plea, we trust not

in our righteousness,
but in your great mercy.

Hear, O Lord, and forgive;

and for your own sake, O Lord my God,
act, and do not delay;
for the city, and the people,
bear your name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Philippians 2.12-15*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know that you have

continued to trust
in all that I was able to teach you
while I was with you,

and that you continue

to commit yourselves
to walking in the way of salvation.

Always do so with humility, honouring

both the power
and the majesty of God.

For it is God who is

at work within you:

it is God who gives you

both the desire
and the strength
to do God's will.

So avoid

complaint and dispute,

and you will be innocent and uncorrupted

children of God,

shining as lights

in the darkness of this

wicked and corrupt

generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 8.2-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Early in the morning,

Jesus came again to the temple.

All the people

gathered around him,

and he sat down, and began to teach them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees

brought to him

a woman who had been

caught in adultery;

and making her stand there,

in front of all the people,

they said to Jesus,

'Teacher, this woman was caught

in the very act

of committing adultery.

In the law, Moses commanded us

to stone

such women.

What do you say?'

They said this

to test Jesus,

so that they might have some charge

to bring against him.

Jesus bent down,

and wrote, with his finger, on the ground.

As they kept on questioning him,

he straightened up

and said to them,

'Let the one who is

without sin

cast the first stone.'

And once again,

he bent down

and wrote on the ground.

Having heard these words

they went away,

one by one,

beginning with the eldest,

until Jesus was left alone

with the woman standing there.

Jesus straightened up

and said to her, 'Where are they?

Has no one

condemned you?'

She said, 'No one, sir.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you.

Go on your way,

and do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

First Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 26.4-10*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When the priest

takes your harvest offering
of the first-fruits of the land,
and places it before the altar
of the Lord your God,
there you shall say:

'My ancestors
were homeless travellers
from Aram.

Few in number,
we lived in Egypt, as foreigners.

There, we grew in number, and in strength,
to become a great nation.

But the Egyptians
treated us harshly,
and afflicted us,
imposing hard labour upon us.

We cried to the Lord, the God
of our ancestors,
and the Lord heard our voice,
and looked upon our affliction,
our toil and oppression.

And the Lord
brought us out of Egypt,
with a mighty hand,
and an outstretched arm,
and acts of great power,

and brought us
to this place,
and gave us this land,
a land rich
with milk and honey.

So now I bring to you, O Lord,
the first-fruits
of the harvest
of the land
that you have given to me.'

And you shall bow down
before the Lord your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Romans 10.8-13*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Scripture says:

'The word is near to you;
it is on your lips,
and
it is in your heart'.

And this is now
the word of faith
that we proclaim -

that if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord,
and if you believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

Scripture also declares that no one
believing in the Lord
will be put to shame.

And in this, there is no distinction
between the descendants of Jacob
and all the other people of the world.

For the same Lord
is Lord of all,
and is gracious to all.

And everyone who calls on
the name of the Lord
will be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 4.1-13a*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from his baptism in the river Jordan,
and was led, by the Spirit, into the wilderness.

There, for forty days,
he was tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing during those days,
and while he was experiencing great hunger,
the devil said to him,

'If you are the Son of God,
command this stone
to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,
"Life is not sustained
by bread alone."'

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place
and showed him, in one instant,
all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him, 'I can give you
the glory and the power
of all these kingdoms.

If you will worship me,
they will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,
"Worship and serve
the Lord your God,
and no other."'

Then the devil took Jesus
to Jerusalem, and placed him
on the highest point of the temple,

saying, 'If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down from here,
for the scripture says, "The Lord Most High
will send angels to protect you,

to raise you up
in their hands,

so that you will not even
hurt your foot
against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, 'The scripture also says, "Do not
put the Lord your God
to the test.'"

And having completed all these temptations,
the devil departed from Jesus
until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 16 MARCH*Second Sunday of Lent***FIRST READING – Genesis 15.12-14,18**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

As the sun was going down,
Abram fell into a deep sleep,
and a terrifying darkness
fell upon him.

The Lord said to Abram, 'For four hundred years,
your descendants will live
as foreigners
in a land
that is not their own;
and they will be slaves there,
and they will be oppressed.

But I make this covenant with you this day:
that I will bring judgement
on the nation
that enslaves them,
and your descendants
will leave that place
with great possessions,
and I will restore them
to this land.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Philippians 3.18 - 4.1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I write
with tears in my eyes,
as I say again
that there are many who live as enemies
of the cross of Christ.

Their minds are set
on earthly things.

Greed
is their god.

They
glory
in their shame.

And their end
is destruction.

But we belong
not to earth,
but to heaven.

And we look to the day
when our Saviour,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
with authority
over all creation,
will transform
our lowly bodies
to be like
his glorious body.

So, my beloved brothers and sisters -
my joy and crown -
stand firm
in the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 9.28-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus went up on the mountain to pray,
taking with him
Peter, James, and John.

And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face was changed,
and his clothes
became dazzling white.

And there with him, in glory,
were Moses,
and Elijah.

And they were speaking together
about his departure, which was
soon to be fulfilled
at Jerusalem.

Peter, James, and John
had been
weighed down
with sleep;

but became
fully awake
when they saw
his glory,

and Moses and Elijah
standing with him.

As Moses and Elijah
were preparing to depart,
Peter said to Jesus, 'Master,
it is good
for us
to be here.

Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

He did not know
what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking,
a cloud came,
and covered them;

and they were
afraid.

And a voice
spoke
from the cloud,
saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen.
Listen to him.'

When the voice had spoken,
they looked,
and saw only Jesus, alone.

And in those days
they told no one
of what
they had seen.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

Third Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 55.6-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Turn away

from your wicked ways,
and turn to the Lord,
for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

from your plotting for injustice,
and call upon the Lord,
for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,

for God will have mercy,
and freely forgive.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 10.1-6,9-13*

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

Our ancestors

passed through the Red Sea,
and were then
guided through the wilderness
by the cloud
that went before them.

It was as though they were

baptised into Moses,
first in the sea, and then in the cloud.

There in the wilderness, they ate spiritual food,
and they drank spiritual drink,
from the rock that was surely Christ.

And still, they rebelled against God,
and were struck down.

And this becomes a warning

for us, in our own time,
not to pursue evil as they did;
and not to put Christ to the test,
or complain, as they did,
for it led to their destruction.

So when you are

most confident
that all is well, and that you are standing firm,
it is then
that you should
take the most care
that you do not fall.

And when you are most fully aware
of your trials and your weaknesses,

it is then

that you can be reassured
that any temptation or adversity that comes upon you
has been suffered by others before.

God is faithful, and will not

let you be tested
beyond your strength;
but will ensure, in every situation,
that there is always a way through,
and that you will have the strength
to endure.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 13.1-9*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

A report

reached Jesus
and the disciples
that some Galileans

had been killed,
by Pilate,

while they were
offering sacrifices
in the temple.

Jesus said, 'Do not be thinking
that these
were the worst sinners
in Galilee;

for unless

you repent,
you will all
surely perish
in the same way.

And you know about

the eighteen who were killed
when the tower of Siloam
fell on them.

Do not be thinking

that they
were the worst sinners
in Jerusalem;

for unless

you repent,
you will all
surely perish
in the same way.'

And he told them

this parable:

'The owner of a vineyard
had a fig tree,
and came looking for fruit on it,
but there was none.

The owner of the vineyard
said to the keeper
of the vineyard,

"For three years now, I have come
looking for fruit
on this fig tree,
but found none.

Cut it down!

It is a waste of good land!"

But the keeper of the vineyard
pleaded, "Allow it one more year,
while I dig around it,
and put manure on it.

If it finally
bears fruit,
let it be;

and only
if it then
still bears
no fruit,
cut it down."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING – *Joshua 5.9-12*

A reading from the book of Joshua.

After crossing the river Jordan,
to enter the promised land,
the people camped at Gilgal,
in the plains of Jericho.

And there, they kept the Passover, on the evening
of the fourteenth day of the month.

The next day, there was no
miraculous food on the ground;
because now, they were able to eat
the ordinary produce
of the promised land.

That first day, they ate the produce
of the promised land
as unleavened bread, and roasted grain.

And the Lord said to Joshua: 'Today, I have taken away
the disgrace
you suffered in Egypt.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *2 Corinthians 5.17-20*

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

By God's grace,
we have been reconciled to God, in Christ.

And now, God has entrusted to us
the message of reconciliation.

God has made us ambassadors for Christ,
to proclaim this message to the world:
'God no longer counts your trespasses against you!
Be reconciled to God!'

Anyone who is in Christ
is a new creation.

The old has passed away,
and everything is new.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 15.1-3, 11-32*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The Pharisees and the scribes
complained against Jesus,
because Jesus welcomed
the collectors of the Roman taxes,
and other notorious sinners, who came to listen to him;
and he would even eat with them.

So Jesus told them this parable:

'There was a man who had two sons.

The younger son said to his father, "Give me
my share of the property."

So the father divided his property
between his two sons.

A few days later, the younger son
gathered his belongings,
and travelled to a distant country,
and there
began to squander
all his wealth.

When he had spent

all that he had,

a severe famine spread throughout that country.

So he went and hired himself out

to one of the farmers in that country, who sent him
to feed the pigs.

And he was so hungry

that he would gladly have eaten
the waste

that the pigs were eating.

Eventually, he said to himself, "Here I am,

dying of hunger, while my father's
hired workers

have enough to eat, and more to spare.

I will go back to my father, and say, 'Father,
I have sinned against heaven, and before you;

I am no longer worthy to be called your son;
treat me as one of your hired workers.'"

So he set off, and went to his father.

While he was still far off, his father saw him,
and was filled with compassion.

His father ran,

and put his arms around him, and kissed him.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven,
and before you; I am no longer worthy
to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Go quickly,

and bring, for my son, the finest clothes,
a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet!

Take the fatted calf, and kill it,

and let us celebrate with a feast,

for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again;
he was lost - and now he is found."

And the celebration began.

All this time, the elder son was working in the field.

When the elder son approached the house,
he heard music and dancing.

He called one of the servants,

and asked what was happening.

The servant explained, "Your brother
has returned, alive, and your father
has killed the fatted calf, to celebrate."

On hearing this, the elder son

became angry, and refused to go in.

His father came out and pleaded with him,

but he said, "For all these years,

I have worked for you like a slave,

and I have never disobeyed your command.

And you have never given me

even a young goat

to celebrate with my friends.

But this son of yours

has come back, having squandered your wealth
with the shameless, and you have killed
the fatted calf for him!"

His father said, "Son, you are always with me,
and all that I have is yours.

And we must celebrate,

because this brother of yours

was lost, and now he is found;

he was dead, and now he is alive again."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

Fifth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 43.15-21*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord, your Redeemer,

the Holy One of Israel, says:

I am the Lord your God,

the Creator of Israel,

your King.

I made a path for you

through the mighty waters

of the sea.

I drew out the Egyptians behind you,

chariots and horses, an army of warriors;

but now they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished,

quenched,

like a wick.

Yet now I say:

recount this history no more,

nor dwell on events of the past;

for now I begin something new.

Already it springs up;

look, and see.

Even the wild animals

will honour me.

I will make

a safe route through the wilderness,

and rivers will flow in the desert,

to refresh my chosen people,

the people I formed for myself;

and they will declare my praise anew.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Philippians 3.4b,5b-14*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else

has reason

to be confident in the flesh,

I have more.

I am an Israelite, of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew,

born of Hebrews.

In the observation of the law,

I was a Pharisee.

In zeal,

I was a persecutor of the church.

In righteousness according to the law,

I was blameless.

I once thought these things were valuable -

but now I regard them

as worthless;

for nothing

has any value at all

compared to knowing

Christ Jesus

as my Lord.

I have lost everything, but I count it as

no loss at all,

for what I have gained

is Christ.

United with Christ,

I depend no more

on a righteousness of my own,

derived from the law,

for I depend now, instead,

on a righteousness that comes from God,

through faith in Christ.

And now I press on

towards the goal

of knowing Christ Jesus more fully,

sharing in his sufferings,

and even becoming like him in his death,

in faith and trust

that I will also come to know

the power of his resurrection.

All this I choose,

just as Christ

has chosen me,

for this is God's high calling to us

in Christ Jesus.

So I forget all that lies behind,

and I press on to all that lies ahead,

in faith

that at the conclusion of it all

is the resurrection

from death to life.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 12.1-8*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Six days before the Passover,

Jesus came to Bethany, to the home of Lazarus.

Lazarus was the one

Jesus had raised from the dead.

There, they gave a dinner for Jesus.

Martha served,

and Lazarus was at the table, with Jesus.

Mary took a pound

of costly perfume,

and used the perfume to anoint Jesus' feet,

wiping his feet with her hair.

And the house was filled

with the fragrance

of the perfume.

Judas Iscariot

(the disciple who was about to betray Jesus)

complained, saying, 'This perfume

could have been sold

for a whole year's wages,

and the money given to the poor!'

(He said this

not because he cared about the poor,

but because he was a thief.

He looked after the disciples' funds,

and would steal from them.)

Jesus said, 'Let her alone.

She has kept this perfume

for the day of my burial.

You will always have the poor with you,

but you will not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 13 APRIL

Palm Sunday

PALM PROCESSION – *Luke 19.35-40*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The disciples
brought the foal to Jesus,
and threw their cloaks across it.

As Jesus set off,
riding the foal,
down the Mount of Olives,
people spread their cloaks
on the road
in front of him.

As they approached Jerusalem,
the whole crowd of disciples
began to praise God
joyfully

for all the deeds of power
they had seen,
shouting out,

'Blessed is the king
who comes
in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,
and glory
in the highest!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd
said to Jesus,
'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'

Jesus said,
'I tell you,
if the people were silent,
the stones would shout out.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

MAIN LITURGY

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 50.4-8a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God
has taught me wisdom,
that I may speak words of comfort
to those who are weary.

Morning by morning,
the Lord God awakens me,
that I may learn wisdom
as a servant of the Lord.

When I face persecution and violence,
I do not hide my face, or turn away,
for the Lord God is my helper,
and I will not
be defeated or ashamed.

I set my face like flint,
for my protector,
the one who brings justice,
is near.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Philippians 2.5-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard
his equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,
he humbled himself,
in faithful obedience,
even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,
and has given him the name
that is above every name,

so that
at the name of Jesus,
all shall bow down,
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory
of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

PASSION – *Luke 22.14 - 23.56*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

When the time came
for the Passover meal,
Jesus took his place, at the table,
with the apostles.
Jesus said to them, 'I have longed
to eat this Passover
with you

before I suffer;
for I will not eat it again
until it is fulfilled
in the kingdom of God.'

Then Jesus took a cup,
and after giving thanks,
he said, 'Take this,
and divide it amongst yourselves;

for I will not drink
the fruit of the vine
again
until the kingdom of God
has come.'

Then Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke the bread,
and gave it to them,
saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

And in the same way, after supper,
he took the cup,
saying, 'This cup
is the new covenant,
in my blood, which is
poured out for you.'

And see,
the one who betrays me
is here with me.
His hand
is on the table
with mine.
For the Son of Man departs
as it has been determined.
But woe
to the one who betrays him!
And they began to question
amongst themselves,
which one of them
it could be
that would do this.

They also began to dispute
amongst themselves,
which one of them
should be considered
the greatest.
But Jesus said to them, 'The rulers
of the nations
lord it over them;
and those
with great authority
are called
benefactors.
But it shall not
be so
with you.
The greatest amongst you
must become like the least,
and the leader
must become
like the one who serves -
just as I am amongst you
as one who serves.

You are the ones who have
stood by me
in my trials.
And I grant to you
a kingdom,
just as my Father
has granted a kingdom
to me.
You will eat and drink
at my table
in my kingdom,
and sit on thrones,
and serve justice there.

Now Simon, Simon, listen!
Satan has demanded
to sift all of you
like wheat,
but I have prayed for you, Simon,
that your faith
may not fail.
And when you return,
strengthen
your brothers.'
Simon Peter replied, 'Lord,
I am ready to go with you,
to prison, and to death!'
Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter,
the cock
will not crow
this day,
until you have denied three times
that you know me.'

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'You know
that when I sent you out
without purse, or bag, or sandals,
you lacked nothing.
But now,
take your purse,
and your bag.
And if you have no sword,
sell your cloak and buy one.
The scripture says, "He was counted
amongst the lawless";
and this is now being fulfilled
in me.'
The disciples said, 'Lord, here are two swords.'
And Jesus replied, 'It is enough.'

Then they went out,
as so often,
to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus leading the way, and the disciples following.
And when they had all
reached the place,
Jesus said to them, 'Pray,
that you may not
have to enter
the time of temptation, testing, and trial.'
And Jesus withdrew from them,
about a stone's throw,
and knelt down, and prayed, 'Father,
if you are willing,
remove this cup from me;
yet not my will,
but yours,
be done.'
Then an angel, from heaven,
appeared to him,
and gave him strength.
And he prayed
with greater anguish;
and his sweat became
like great drops of blood,
falling to the ground.

When Jesus got up from prayer,
he came to the disciples,
and found them sleeping,
exhausted by grief.
Jesus said to them, 'Why are you sleeping?
Get up, and pray
that you may not
have to enter
the time of temptation, testing, and trial.'

While Jesus was still speaking,
a crowd appeared.

Amongst them
were the chief priests,
the temple guards,
and the elders.

And Judas,
one of the twelve,
was leading them.

Judas
approached Jesus,
as if
to greet him
with a kiss.

And Jesus
said,
'Judas,
do you betray
the Son of Man,
with a kiss?'

When those who were
around Jesus
saw what was happening,
they asked Jesus
whether they should
strike
with their swords.

One of them
struck
the servant of the high priest,
cutting off
his right ear.

But Jesus said,
'No more of this!'

And Jesus
touched
the servant's ear,
and it was healed.

Then Jesus said
to those who had come for him,
'Day after day,
I was
in your temple,
teaching,
and you did not
arrest me.

And now you come out
with swords and clubs,
to arrest me
like an outlaw.

But this is your hour,
and the power of darkness.'

Then they
seized Jesus,
and led him away
to the house
of the high priest.

Peter followed,
at a distance.

The guards lit a fire,
in the middle of the courtyard,
and sat down together.

Peter sat amongst them.

In the light
from the fire,

Peter was noticed
by one of the women who worked there.

She observed him carefully,
then said, 'This man
was with him.'

But Peter denied it,
saying, 'Woman,

I do not know him.'

A short time later,
another said to him, 'You are one of them!
But Peter said, 'I am not!'

About an hour later, another was insisting,
'Surely this man was with him,
for he is a Galilean.'

But Peter said, 'I do not know
what you mean.'

At that very moment,
while Peter was still speaking,
the cock
crowed.

And the Lord turned,
and looked at Peter.

And Peter remembered
that the Lord had said to him,
'Before the cock crows, today,
you will deny me three times.'

And Peter went out,
and wept bitterly.

The guards who were detaining Jesus
began to mock him;

blindfolding him,
and beating him;

and saying,
'If you are a prophet,
tell us who struck you;'

and many other
insults
against him.

When daylight came,
the chief priests and the scribes
assembled,
and they had
Jesus
brought before them.
They said to him, 'If you are
the Messiah, tell us.'
Jesus said, 'If I were
to tell you,
you would not believe.
And if I were
to question you,
you would not answer.
But soon,
the Son of Man
will be seated
at the right hand
of the power of God.'
They said, 'Then you are
the Son of God?'
Jesus said to them, 'You say that I am.'
They said, 'We need
no further witnesses.
We have heard it ourselves,
from his own lips.'

The assembly arose,
and they took Jesus
to Pilate.
There,
they made their accusation against him:
'We found this man
subverting our nation,
forbidding
the payment of taxes
to the emperor,
and declaring himself
to be the Messiah - the anointed king.'
Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you
the King of the Jews?'
Jesus replied,
'You have said it.'

But Pilate said,
to the chief priests, and to all those assembled,
'I find no basis
for an accusation against this man.'
But they were insistent,
saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching
throughout Judea,
from Galilee, where he began,
and now here, in Jerusalem.'
When Pilate heard this,
he enquired
whether Jesus was Galilean,
as this would place Jesus
under Herod's jurisdiction.
On hearing that Jesus was indeed Galilean,
Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, who was
in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad,
because he had been
wanting to see Jesus
for some time,
having heard about him,
and was hoping to see him
perform some sign.
Herod questioned Jesus at length,
but Jesus
gave no answer.
The chief priests and the scribes
continued
accusing Jesus.
Herod
and his soldiers
began
to treat Jesus
with contempt.
Mocking him,
they put an elegant robe on him,
and sent him back
to Pilate.
And Herod and Pilate
became friends that day,
where previously
there had been
hostility
between them.

Pilate now called together
the chief priests,
the rulers,
and the people,
and said to them,
'You brought me this man,
accusing him
of subverting the people.
I have examined him in your presence,
and I have found nothing
that makes him guilty
of the accusations
you have made against him.
Neither has Herod,
for he sent him back to us.
He has done nothing
deserving death.
I will have him
flogged,
and release him.'
But they all shouted out,
'Away with him!
Release Barabbas!'
(Barabbas
had been imprisoned
for insurrection,
and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus,
 appealed to them again;
but those who were gathered
 began shouting out
 that Jesus
 should be crucified.

A third time, Pilate said to them,
 'Why, what evil has he done?
 I find no reason for his death.
 I will have him
 flogged, and release him.'

But they continued
 shouting out their demand
 that he should be
 crucified.

And their voices prevailed
 until Pilate declared
 that their demand
 should be granted;
and he released Barabbas, as they had demanded -
 the one who had been imprisoned
 for insurrection and for murder -
and Jesus,
 he delivered up
 to their will.

As they led Jesus away,
 they seized
 Simon, from North Africa, who was
 travelling into Jerusalem.

And they
 laid the cross on him,
 and made him carry it,
 behind Jesus.

A great number of people
 followed behind,
 including women, who were
 weeping for him.

But Jesus turned to them
 and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem,
 do not weep for me,
 but weep for yourselves,
 and for your children.

For the days are coming
 when many
 will declare
 the childless woman
 fortunate, and blessed.

And people will long
 for the mountains and the hills
 to fall on them
 and cover them.

For if this
 is what they do
 when the wood is green,
what
 will they do
 when it is dry.'

Two criminals
 were also being
 led away,
to be put to death
 with him.

And when they came
 to the place
 called The Skull,
they crucified him there,
 with the criminals,
 one on his right, and one on his left.

Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them;
 for they do not know
 what they are doing.'

And they cast lots
 to divide his clothing.

The people
 stood watching.
But the rulers mocked him,
 saying, 'He saved others;
 let him save himself, if he is
 God's anointed,
 God's chosen one!'

The soldiers also mocked him,
 approaching him
 to offer sour wine,
and saying, 'If you are
 the King of the Jews,
 save yourself!'
For the inscription, written above him,
 said, 'The King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals
 crucified alongside him
 also mocked him,
 saying, 'If you are the Messiah,
 save yourself - and us!'

But the other criminal
 said to him, 'Have you
 no fear of God?

We are being
 punished for our crimes,
but this man
 has done
 no wrong.'

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

Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you,
 today
 you will be with me
 in Paradise.'

It was now about noon.
And for three hours,
darkness
came over the whole land.

For the light
of the sun
failed.

And the curtain
of the temple sanctuary
was torn in two.

Then Jesus cried out, 'Father,
into your hands
I commit my spirit.'

And saying this,
he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing all that had taken place,
praised God, saying, 'Surely,
this was a righteous man.'

And all those who had gathered
to witness these things
now returned home, beating their breasts.

And all those who knew Jesus,
and the women who had followed him from Galilee,
looked on
at these things, from a distance.

Now there was a good and righteous man
named Joseph, from Arimathea, who was
waiting expectantly
for the kingdom of God.

He was a member of the Hebrew council,
but he had not consented
to their plan or action.

He went to Pilate
and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then he took it down,
wrapped it
in a linen cloth,

and laid it
in an unused tomb,
which had been
carved out
from the rock.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee
followed behind,
and saw the tomb where the body was laid.

They returned,
and prepared spices and ointments,
but it was evening,
and the sabbath was beginning,
and for the sabbath day, they rested,
in accordance with the commandment.

The Passion of the Lord.

THURSDAY 17 APRIL

Maundy Thursday

FIRST READING – *Genesis 14.18-20a*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

King Melchizedek of Salem

was a priest

of God Most High.

And he brought out bread,
and wine.

And he blessed Abram,
saying, 'Blessed be Abram,
by God Most High,
the maker
of heaven and earth.

And blessed
be God Most High, who has
delivered you
from the hands
of your enemies.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

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

The teaching

I received

from the Lord

is the teaching

I pass on

to you:

that the Lord Jesus,
on the night
he was betrayed,
took bread;

and when he had given thanks,
he broke it,
and said,

'This is my body,
which is
given
for you;

do this
in remembrance of me.'

In the same way,

after

they had eaten,

he took the cup,
and said,

'This cup
is the new covenant
in my blood;

do this, whenever you drink it,
in remembrance
of me.'

So whenever
you eat this bread,
and drink
this cup,

you proclaim
the Lord's death,
until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 6.22-35*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Some from the crowd

stayed overnight, at the lakeside,

at the place where Jesus

had given thanks over the bread,

and the whole crowd had eaten.

In the morning, when they realised

that both Jesus and the disciples

had left, they went by boat

to Capernaum, to look for Jesus there.

When they found Jesus,

they asked him, 'Teacher, when did you come here?'

Jesus said, 'You have come to find me,

not because you understood the meaning

of the sign

that you witnessed,

but because you ate your fill of bread!

Do not work

for the food

that perishes,

but work

for the food

that endures

for eternal life -

the food

that the Son of Man

will give you;

for it is on

the Son of Man

that God the Father

has set his seal.'

They said to him, 'What must we do
to be doing the work of God?'

Jesus said, 'This is the work of God:

that you believe in the one

that God

has sent.'

So they said to him, 'What sign

are you going to give us,

that we may see it,

and believe in you?'

Our ancestors

ate manna in the wilderness;

it says, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus said to them, 'It was not Moses who gave you
the bread from heaven;

it is my Father who gives you

the true bread from heaven -

the bread of God

that comes down from heaven

and gives life to the world.'

They said to him, 'Sir,

give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am

the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me

will never be hungry,

and whoever believes in me

will never be thirsty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Good Friday

FIRST READING – Isaiah 53.3-5

He was despised
and rejected.
He knew anguish
and pain.
We counted him as worthless,
as struck down
by God.
We turned our faces
from him.
Yet truly
he bore our anguish,
and carried our pain.
He was wounded
for our transgressions,
and crushed
for our iniquities.
He bore the punishment
that makes us whole.
And by his wounds,
we are healed.

SECOND READING – Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a

We have
a great high priest, who has
ascended
into heaven,
Jesus, the Son of God.
And he is able to sympathise
with our weakness,
for he himself
has been tested,
in every way, as we are -
yet without sin.
So let us trust in him,
and approach the throne of grace
with confidence,
that we may receive
mercy,
and find
grace to help
in time of need.
In the days of his earthly life,
Jesus offered up prayers,
with loud cries, and tears,
to the one who was
able to rescue him
from death.
And his prayer was heard,
in his reverent submission
to the will of the Father.
Even as the Son,
he grew
in devotion
through all
he learned and endured.
And when he had
accomplished
and
completed
all things,
he was declared by God
to be the eternal high priest,
and has become
the source
of eternal salvation
for all who trust in him.

*Good Friday Passion Readings
begin on the next page*

FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 1

John 18:1-27

Jesus went
with his disciples
to a garden
on the far side
of the Kidron valley.
Judas
also knew the place,
because Jesus
would often meet there
with his disciples.
So Judas led the soldiers and the temple guards there,
with weapons and torches.
Jesus, knowing what was happening,
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it
that you are looking for?'
They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'
Jesus said, 'I am he.'
And they stepped back
and fell to the ground.
Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it
that you are looking for?'
And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'
Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.
Now let these others go.'
In this way,
he fulfilled the words
he had earlier
spoken in prayer:
'I have protected those
you entrusted to me.'
Simon Peter
now drew his sword,
and struck
the servant
of the high priest,
cutting off his right ear.
Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,
for I must surely drink
from the cup
that the Father
has given me.'
Then the soldiers
and the temple guards
arrested Jesus,
and bound him.
They took him first to Annas,
the father-in-law
of Caiaphas,
the high priest that year.
Caiaphas was the one who had said
that it was better
to have one person die
for the people.

Simon Peter,
and another disciple,
followed Jesus.
The other disciple
was known
to the high priest,
and was able to follow Jesus
all the way into the courtyard.
But Peter was left standing outside the gate,
until the other disciple
went out
and spoke to the woman who was
guarding the gate.
The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also
one of his disciples?'
Peter said, 'I am not.'
The servants and temple guards
had made a charcoal fire
in the courtyard,
and they were standing around it
to keep warm.
Peter went
and stood with them.
Inside, they were questioning Jesus
about his disciples
and his teaching.
Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.
I have taught
in the synagogue,
and in the temple,
where people gather.
I have said nothing in secret.
Why ask me,
when you can ask
those who heard me?'
One of the temple guards
struck Jesus on the face,
saying, 'That is not
how you answer
the high priest.'
Jesus said, 'If what I have said
is untrue, then say so;
but if it is true, why strike me?'
Annas now sent Jesus, bound,
to Caiaphas the high priest.
Simon Peter
was still standing
with the temple guards,
by the charcoal fire,
in the courtyard.
Those who were standing there
asked Peter, 'Are you also
one of his disciples?'
Peter again denied it,
saying, 'I am not.'
One of the servants of the high priest
(a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)
said to Peter, 'Did I not
see you with him, in the garden?'
Again Peter denied it;
and at that very moment,
the cock crowed.

FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 2

John 18:28 - 19:16

At first light, they took Jesus
from the court of
Caiaphas, the high priest,
to the headquarters of
Pilate, the Roman governor.
But they did not go in,
as that would have been
a ritual defilement, preventing them
from eating the Passover.
So Pilate went out to them,
and asked, 'What charges do you bring
against this man?'
They answered, 'If he were not
an offender, we would not have
brought him to you.'
Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves,
and judge him by your own law.'
They replied, 'It is not lawful for us
to put anyone to death.'
Pilate went back inside his headquarters.
There, he summoned Jesus,
and asked him, 'Are you
the king of the Jews?'
Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself,
or as something that others have said?'
Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew.
Your own people
and their chief priests
have handed you over to me.
What have you done?'
Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not
of this world,
or I would have guards,
fighting to protect me.
My kingdom is not here.'
Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'
Jesus said, 'Those are your words.
I was born, and I came into the world,
to bear witness to the truth.
Everyone who seeks the truth
hears my voice.'
Pilate said, 'And what is truth?'
Pilate then returned
to those who were waiting outside,
and said, 'I find no case against him.
But you have a custom
that I release a prisoner for you
at Passover.
Do you want me to release to you
the king of the Jews?'
And they shouted, 'Not him,
but Barabbas!'
And Barabbas
was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.
The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns,
and put it on his head;
and they dressed him
in a purple robe.
They came up to him, saying,
'Hail, King of the Jews!'
and struck him on the face.
Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside,
and said, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you
to let you know
that I find no case against him.'
Jesus came out,
wearing the crown of thorns
and the purple robe.
Pilate said, 'Behold the man!'
As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards,
saw him,
they shouted, 'Crucify!'
Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him.
I find no case against him.'
They said, 'By our law, he must die,
for he claims to be
the Son of God.'
When Pilate heard this,
he was greatly concerned.
He entered his headquarters again,
and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'
But Jesus gave no answer.
Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?
Do you not see
that I have the power to release you,
or to crucify you?'
Jesus said, 'You would have had
no power over me,
had it not been given to you.
The one who handed me over to you
is guilty of a greater sin.'
On hearing this, Pilate again
sought to release Jesus,
but the chief priests
and the temple guards
said, 'If you release him, you are no friend
of the emperor,
for he sets himself against the emperor,
by calling himself a king.'
Pilate took Jesus outside,
and sat on the judgement seat,
at the stone pavement.
It was about midday
on the day of preparation
for the Passover.
Pilate said, 'Here is your king!'
They cried out, 'Away with him!
Crucify him!'
Pilate asked them, 'Shall I
crucify your king?'
They answered, 'We have no king
but the emperor!'
And Pilate handed Jesus over to them,
and they led him away
to be crucified.

FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 3

John 19:17-end

With Jesus carrying his own cross,
they led him out
to The Place of the Skull
(which in Hebrew is Golgotha).
There they crucified him,
between two others,
one on his right, and one on his left.
Pilate had an inscription
placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews.'
Many people were able to read this,
as the place of the crucifixion
was near the city,
and the sign was written
in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.
The chief priests complained to Pilate,
insisting that the inscription
should not be
'The King of the Jews',
but
'This man claimed to be
the King of the Jews'.
But Pilate said, 'What I have written,
I have written.'
The soldiers who crucified Jesus
divided his clothes
between them.
But his tunic was woven as a single piece,
so rather than tear it,
they cast lots for it.
As it says in the psalm, 'They divided my garments
amongst themselves,
and for my clothing,
they cast lots.'
Standing by the cross of Jesus
were his mother,
and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene.
When Jesus saw the beloved disciple
standing beside his mother,
Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son',
and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'
And from that time on,
the disciple took her into his own home.
Knowing that everything was now completed,
and in order to fulfil the scripture,
Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'
From a jar that was standing there,
they filled a sponge with sour wine,
fixed it
on a branch of hyssop,
and lifted it to his mouth.
When Jesus had received it,
he said, 'It is finished,'
And he bowed his head,
and gave up his spirit.

The temple authorities
did not want the crucifixions
continuing into the sabbath,
so they asked Pilate to order
that the legs of the crucified
be broken,
and the bodies removed.
The soldiers came
and broke the legs
of the two who had been crucified
alongside Jesus.
But when they came to Jesus,
seeing that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,
but pierced his side with a spear;
and blood and water
flowed out.
This account is given
by one who
witnessed these things,
so that you may know it to be true.
And so the scriptures were fulfilled:
'Not one of his bones shall be broken,'
and, 'They will look upon
the one they have pierced.'
After all these things
had taken place,
Joseph of Arimathea
sought and received
from Pilate
permission to take away
the body of Jesus.
Joseph was a disciple of Jesus,
but secretly, for fear
of the religious authorities.
Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus
by night,
brought linen cloths,
and ointment, with myrrh, and aloe.
and together
they anointed and wrapped
the body of Jesus
for burial.
In a garden,
close to the place of crucifixion,
there was a new tomb,
in which no one
had ever been laid.
And as the sabbath
was soon to begin,
and the tomb was nearby,
they laid Jesus there.

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

Easter Day

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 65.17-19*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will create
new heavens, and a new earth,
says the Lord.
And the former things
will be remembered
no more.
Be glad
and rejoice
for ever
in my new creation.
And I myself
will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people.
And the sound of weeping
will be heard no more.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.20-26*

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

Christ
has indeed
been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits
of those who have died.
Just as death
came through
a human being,
so the resurrection
of the dead
has come
through a human being;
for all die
in Adam;
but in Christ,
all will be
made alive:
Christ
as the first fruits,
and at
the coming of Christ,
those who
belong to Christ.
And when all
is completed,
Christ will hand over the kingdom
to God the Father,
having overcome
every other
ruler, authority, and power;
for Christ will reign,
and all enemies
will be defeated;
and the final enemy
that will be destroyed
is death itself.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 20.1-18*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, and saw
that the stone
had been removed.
She hurried back to Simon Peter,
and the disciple Jesus loved, and said,
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know
where they have laid him.'
Peter and the other disciple
set off running
towards the tomb.
The other disciple outran Peter,
reaching the tomb first.
Bending down to look in,
he could see the linen wrappings, lying there,
but did not go in.
Then Simon Peter came, following him,
and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings,
and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head
rolled up separately, in a place by itself.
Then the other disciple also went in,
and saw, and believed;
(for until this point,
they had not understood the scripture,
that he must rise from the dead).
When these two disciples returned to their homes,
Mary stayed, weeping, outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
and she saw two angels, in white robes,
sitting one at the head, and one at the feet,
of where the body of Jesus had been.
The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you weeping?'
Mary said, 'They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him.'
When she had said this, she turned around,
and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know
that it was Jesus.
Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping? Who is it
that you are looking for?'
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
'Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him,
and I will take him away.'
Jesus said to her, 'Mary!'
Mary turned, and said to him, 'Teacher!'
Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go, and tell my brothers
that I am ascending
to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.
Mary Magdalene went
and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord';
and she told them the words
the Lord had spoken to her.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 27 APRIL
Second Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING – *Acts 9.1-11a,15,17-19a*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Saul continued, with his every breath, to make
murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord.
From the high priest, he obtained letters
authorising him to go to the synagogues
in Damascus, to search for disciples there,
to arrest them, and to bring them to Jerusalem.
On this journey, as he was approaching Damascus,
a light from heaven suddenly surrounded him.
He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him,
'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'
Saul asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'
And the reply came, 'I am Jesus,
the one you are persecuting.
Now get up, and enter the city,
and you will be told what you must do.'
The men travelling with Saul
stood there speechless,
because they heard the voice, but saw no one.
When Saul got up from the ground,
though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;
so those who were travelling with him
led him, by the hand, into Damascus.
And for three days, Saul was without sight,
and he neither ate nor drank.
Now in Damascus, there was a disciple called Anan-ias.
The Lord directed Anan-ias, in a vision,
to go to the place where Saul was staying.
The Lord said, 'Go to him, for I have chosen him
to proclaim my name, to people of every nation,
and to their kings, and to the people of Israel.'
So Anan-ias went, and entered the house
where Saul was staying, and said,
'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you
on your way here, has sent me to you,
to pray that you will regain your sight,
and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'
And when Anan-ias laid his hands on Saul to pray,
immediately, something like scales
fell from Saul's eyes; and his sight was restored.
And Saul got up, and was baptised;
and after taking some food,
Saul regained his strength.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Revelation 1.9-13,17-19*

A reading from the book of Revelation.
As your brother in Christ Jesus,
I, John, share with you, with patient endurance,
through suffering and persecution,
in the promise of God's kingdom.
I was in exile on the island of Patmos, for
speaking openly of Jesus, and for
preaching the word of God.
I was in the Spirit, on the Lord's day,
and I heard, behind me, a loud voice, like a trumpet,
saying: 'Write, in a book, what you see,
and send it, to the seven churches of Asia.'

I turned to see whose voice it was, that spoke to me.
And on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands;
and there, with them, one like the Son of Man,
in a long robe, with a golden sash across his chest.
When I saw him, I fell at his feet, as though dead.
But he placed his right hand on me,
saying, 'Do not be afraid;
I am the first and the last, the living one.
I was dead, and see, I am alive for evermore;
and I hold the keys of death and the underworld.
Now write down all that you have seen,
all that is now, and all that is still to take place.'
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 20.19-31*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
The disciples met together, on the evening
of the first day of the week,
with the doors locked,
because they were afraid.
And Jesus came, and stood amongst them,
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
He showed them his hands, and his side.
And the disciples were filled with joy
at seeing the Lord.
Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'
Then he breathed on them,
saying, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'
And he said to them, 'Whatever you forgive
is forgiven, and whatever you retain remains.'
Now one of the twelve, Thomas (called the Twin),
was not with them
when Jesus came.
When the other disciples told Thomas that they had
seen the Lord,
Thomas said to them, 'Unless I see and touch
the marks
of the nails
in his hands,
and put my hand
in his side, I will not believe.'
A week later, Thomas was with the disciples
when they gathered.
And again, though the doors were locked,
Jesus came, and stood amongst them,
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Jesus said to Thomas, 'See and touch my hands,
and place your hand in my side.
Do not doubt, but believe.'
Thomas replied, 'My Lord, and my God!'
Jesus said to Thomas, 'Have you believed
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe.'
Jesus did many other signs, in the presence
of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.
But these are written
that you may believe
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and through believing, may have life in his name.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 4 MAY

Third Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING – *Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After several days with the disciples in Damascus,
Saul began to proclaim, in the synagogues there,
that Jesus is the Son of God.

The leaders of the synagogues in Damascus
began to plot against Saul, even to kill him,
but the disciples took Saul, by night, and let him down
through an opening in the city wall,
lowering him in a basket.

Saul returned to Jerusalem,
and there he attempted to join the disciples;
but they were all afraid of him,
for they did not believe that he was now a disciple.

So Barnabas took Saul to the apostles,
and described for them
how, on the road, Saul had seen the Lord,
and the Lord had spoken to Saul,
and how, in Damascus,
Saul had spoken boldly, in the name of Jesus.

So Saul was accepted
by the disciples in Jerusalem.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Revelation 5.11-14*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

As I looked, I heard the voices
of thousands of angels, all around the throne,
and the four living creatures, and the elders,
all singing in full voice:
'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive
all wisdom, and power;
all glory, and honour, and praise!'

Then I heard
every creature, in heaven, and on earth,
and under the earth, and in the sea,
singing to the one who was
seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb:

'Blessing and honour and glory and power,
be yours for ever and ever!'
And the elders fell down and worshipped.
And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!'
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 21.1-19*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Some of the disciples gathered by the sea of Galilee:
Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin,
Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee, and two others.

Simon Peter decided to go fishing,
and the others went with him -
but all night, they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach;
but the disciples did not know
that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked them whether they had any fish,
and they said 'no'.

He said to them, 'Cast your net
to the other side of the boat, and you will find some.'
So they cast it, and now they were not able
to haul it in, because there were so many fish.

'The disciple Jesus loved'
said to Simon Peter, 'It is the Lord!'
On hearing this, Peter jumped into the lake,
and headed towards the shore.

The other disciples followed in the boat,
dragging the net full of fish.

Going ashore, they saw
a charcoal fire, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them,
'Bring some of the fish
that you have caught.'

So Simon Peter went back to the boat,
and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish,
a hundred and fifty-three of them;
and even though

there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them,
'Come and have breakfast.'

None of the disciples doubted;
they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus took the bread, and gave it to them;
and then the fish.

This was now the third time
that Jesus appeared to the disciples
after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating,
Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John,
do you love me, more than these?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord;
you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

Then a second time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon,
son of John, do you love me?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord;
you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Take care of my sheep.'

Then a third time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon,
son of John, do you love me?'

Peter was distressed that Jesus asked him
a third time, 'Do you love me'.

Peter replied to Jesus, 'Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to Peter, 'Feed my sheep.

Truly, I tell you,
when you were young,
you would fasten your own belt,
and go wherever you wished.
But when you are old,
you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will fasten a belt around you
and take you
where you do not wish to go.'

(Jesus said this to indicate
the kind of death
by which Peter would glorify God.)

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter,
'Follow me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 11 MAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING – *Acts 11.19-23,25-26*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The disciples who fled
from the persecution in Jerusalem
travelled as far as Lebanon, Syria,
Antioch, and Cyprus,
preaching the word, at first,
only in the synagogues.
But amongst these disciples
were some who came originally
from Cyprus, and from North Africa.
On arriving in Antioch,
these disciples proclaimed the Lord Jesus
not only in the synagogues,
but also amongst the wider population.
The hand of the Lord was with them,
and a great number became believers,
turning to the Lord.

News of this
reached the church in Jerusalem;
and they sent Barnabas,
from Jerusalem, to Antioch,
to report back to them.
On arriving in Antioch,
Barnabas was delighted to see
the grace of God at work,
and Barnabas encouraged everyone in Antioch
to remain committed and faithful to the Lord.
Then Barnabas travelled on
to Tarsus,
to look for Saul.
And when Barnabas found Saul,
Barnabas brought Saul
back to Antioch.
And so it was, that for an entire year,
Barnabas and Saul
stayed with the church in Antioch,
and taught a great many people.
And it was in Antioch
that the disciples
were first called Christians.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Revelation 7.9-12,14b-17*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this, I looked,
and there before me
was a great multitude,
from every nation,
tribe, people, and language.
They were standing before the throne,
and before the Lamb,
robed in white,
and with palm branches
in their hands.
They were declaring, with one voice,
'Salvation belongs to our God,
and to the Lamb!'

The angels
around the throne
fell on their faces, and worshipped God,
singing, 'Glory and blessing,
honour and power,
and wisdom and praise,
to our God, for ever and ever!'
One of the twenty-four elders
addressed me,
saying, 'These are the ones who have
come out of the great ordeal.
They have washed and purified
their robes
in the blood of the Lamb.
And now they are
before the throne of God,
serving continually
within God's temple;
and the one who is seated on the throne
will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb on the throne
will be their shepherd,
and will guide them
to the spring
of the water of life.
And God will wipe away
every tear from their eyes.'
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 10.22-30*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
It was the time of the winter festival
of Hanukkah,
and Jesus was in the temple.
The religious leaders gathered around Jesus,
and said to him, 'How long
will you keep us in suspense?
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'
Jesus said, 'I have told you already.
And you have seen
all that I do
in my Father's name.
And yet, still, you do not believe -
because you do not
belong to my sheep.
My sheep listen to my voice.
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life,
and they will never perish.
No one will snatch them
out of my hand.
My all-powerful Father
has given them to me.
No one can snatch them
out of the Father's hand -
and I and the Father
are one.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 18 MAY*Fifth Sunday of Easter***FIRST READING – Acts 16.9-15a**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night, Paul had a vision
of someone standing
and pleading with him, saying,
‘Come over to Macedonia, and help us.’

We immediately tried
to cross over
to Macedonia, convinced
that God had called us
to proclaim the gospel there.

We sailed direct from Troas
to the island of
Samo-thraki;
then the following day
to the coastal port
of Neapolis.

From there, we went inland
to Philippi, which is
the largest city
in Macedonia, and
a Roman colony;
and we remained there
for several days.

On the sabbath,
we went
out of the city,
to a place of prayer,
by the river,
and we sat down,
and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

Amongst them was Lydia,
a worshipper of God;
a dealer in purple cloth
from the city of Thya-tira.

The Lord opened
Lydia’s heart
to receive
Paul’s message.

She
and her entire household
were baptised.

And she invited us
to stay
at her home.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Revelation 21.1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I saw
a new heaven, and a new earth;
for the first heaven, and the first earth,
had passed away.
And I saw the holy city,
the new Jerusalem,
coming down, out of heaven, from God,
prepared as perfectly
as a bride
adorned
for her husband.

And I heard
a loud voice, from the throne, saying,
‘See, the home of God
is amongst mortals.
They will be my people,
and I will dwell amongst them.

I will wipe away
every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning
and crying and pain
will be no more.

See, I am making all things new.
Write this,
for these words
are trustworthy and true.

It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty,
I will give water,
from the spring
of the water of life.

Those who conquer
will inherit these things,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.’

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 13.31a,33-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

As soon as Judas had left the supper,
Jesus said to his disciples:

‘The time has come
for the Son of Man
to be glorified.

I will be with you
only a little longer;
and where I am going,
you cannot come.

And now I give you a new commandment:
that you love one another
as I have loved you.

It is by this
that all will know
that you are my disciples -
if you have love
for one another.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 25 MAY*Sixth Sunday of Easter***FIRST READING – Acts 16.16-34**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On one occasion, on our way to the place of prayer,
we met a slave-girl who was possessed by a demon.

She brought her owners a significant income
by fortune-telling, and casting spells.

She followed us around, crying out,
'These men are servants of God Most High!
They proclaim the way of salvation!'

This went on for many days,
until Paul, in exasperation, turned and said,
'I order you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
to come out of her;' and the spirit that had
possessed her immediately left her.

When her owners saw
that their hope of making money was gone,
they seized Paul and Silas,
and dragged them into the market-place,
and before the magistrates,
saying, 'These men are disturbing our city.
They are Hebrews, and they are promoting customs
that are not lawful for us, to accept or to practice,
as Roman citizens.'

The crowd joined in the protest, until the magistrates
had Paul and Silas flogged, and imprisoned,
ordering the jailer to keep them securely.

The jailer put Paul and Silas in the innermost cell,
and fastened their feet in chains.

About midnight,
Paul and Silas were praying, and singing hymns,
and the other prisoners were listening to them.
Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent
that the foundations of the prison were shaken;
and all the doors of the prison were opened,
and everyone's chains came undone.

The jailer awoke,
and saw that the prison doors were wide open.

Assuming that the prisoners had escaped,
he drew his sword, and was about to kill himself.

But Paul shouted out,
'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'
The jailer called for lights, and rushed in,
falling down trembling before Paul and Silas.
Then he led Paul and Silas outside,
and asked them, 'What must I do to be saved?'
Paul and Silas answered, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved - you, and all your household.'

The jailer took Paul and Silas
to his house,
and washed their wounds, and set food before them.
And Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord
to the jailer,
and to all who were in his household.

And the jailer, and all his household,
were baptised, that very night,
and were filled with joy
in their new faith.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Revelation 21.10,22-27 & 22.1-2

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In the spirit, the angel carried me away
to a great high mountain,
and showed me the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down, out of heaven, from God.
I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty,
and the Lamb, are themselves its temple.

The city has no need for light
from sun or moon,
for the glory of God
and the glory of the Lamb
are its light.

All nations will walk
by the light of that holy city.

The kings of the earth
will bring to that city
the glory and honour of all nations.

The gates of the city
will always be open by day
to receive those gifts of glory and honour -
and there will be no night.

There will be
no evil or falsehood there,
for the ones who enter will be
those whose names are written
in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me
the river
of the water of life, as bright as crystal,
flowing through
the centre of the city,
from the throne of God, and of the Lamb.

And by the river, I saw the tree of life,
with its fruit
for every month of the year,
and its leaves
for the healing of the nations.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 14.23-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'I speak only the words
of the Father who sent me.

Those who love me
will live by my words.
And my Father will love them,
and we will come to them,
and make our home with them.

I say these things
while I am still with you.
But the Father will send to you, in my name,
the Holy Spirit, to be with you, who will
teach you all things, and remind you
of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you -
a peace that the world cannot give.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not be afraid.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

THURSDAY 29 MAY

Ascension Day

FIRST READING – Acts 1.3-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his suffering and death,

Jesus presented himself alive
to the apostles,
with many convincing proofs,
appearing to them
during forty days,
and speaking
of the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them, 'Do not
leave Jerusalem,
but wait here

for the promise of the Father.

John baptised with water,
but you will be baptised
with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now.'

The apostles asked Jesus, 'Lord,
is this the time
when you will restore
the kingdom of Israel?'

Jesus replied, 'You cannot know
every time or season
in the purposes
of the Father.

But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
comes upon you.

And you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem,
in all Judea,
in Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.'

Then, as they were watching,
he was taken up,
and a cloud
hid him
from their sight.

And as they looked intently into the sky,
two figures in white robes appeared,
saying, 'Men of Galilee,
why do you stand here
looking into the sky?

This Jesus
has been
taken up
from you
into heaven,
and will return
in the same way
you saw him go.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Ephesians 1.17-23*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

The power of God

has raised Christ from the dead,
to God's right hand on high,
far above all earthly powers -
above every other name,
in this world or the next.

God has made Christ
the head of the church;
and has made the church
the body of Christ.

So now may your hearts be filled
with the same power of God, which is
the gift of God
to all who believe.

May your hearts be filled
with confidence
for the future to which
God has called you,
and with all the glorious riches
that God gives to you,
and to all the saints.

And may the God of glory,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
give you a spirit
of wisdom and insight,
that you may continue to grow
in the knowledge of God.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 24.44-53*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples
to understand the scriptures, saying:

'Everything that is written about me,
in the law of Moses, in the prophets,
and in the psalms, must be fulfilled:

that the Messiah is to suffer,
and to rise from the dead on the third day;
and that repentance, and the forgiveness of sins,
will then be proclaimed, in his name,
to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses to these things.

And now I am sending you

the gift that my Father promised;

so stay here in the city

until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out of Jerusalem

to Bethany,

and there, lifting up his hands,
he blessed them.

And while he was blessing them,

he withdrew from them,

and was taken up into heaven.

And they worshipped him.

They returned to Jerusalem

filled with joy.

And they were continually in the temple,
praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 1 JUNE

Seventh Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING – *Acts 17.16-34*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On arriving in Athens, Paul was disturbed to find that the city was full of idols.

Daily, in both the synagogue and the market-place, he set out the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Some of the philosophers accused him of speaking nonsense, or promoting foreign gods, but some wanted to hear more.

Indeed all those who gathered in Athens were keen to hear all that was new.

So Paul stood before them, and said, 'People of Athens,

I see how extremely religious you are, in every way; for as I walked through the city, and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found amongst them an altar with the inscription: "To an unknown god."

That which you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you.

The God who made the world, and everything in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in any shrine made by human hands, or depend (like your idols) on human care, but is the one who gives to us life, and breath, and all that we have.

From just one ancient ancestor, God made all nations, to inhabit the whole earth, determining their various times and places in history; so every nation equally can search for God, reach out for God, and find God; and indeed God is not far away from any one of us.

For, as your own poets have said, "we are all children of God," and "it is in God that we live, and move, and have our being".

As children of God, we should not think of God as an image, in gold, or silver, or stone, created by human art or imagination!

God has graciously overlooked the times of human ignorance, but God now calls upon all people everywhere to repent.

And God has set the date on which the world will be judged, in righteousness, by a human being God has appointed - and has raised from the dead, so that all may believe.'

Some now mocked, when Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead.

But others said, 'We will hear you again, about this.'

And some followed Paul, and became believers, including at least one member of the council, and a woman, named Damaris, and others with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Rev 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying: 'See, I am coming soon, bringing my reward for each, according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Blessed are those who wash their robes, and enter the city by its gates, and find the tree of life.

I, Jesus, sent my angel to you with this vision, and this message, for the churches.

I am both the root and the branch of David, and the bright morning star.

And now, the Spirit and the bride say, "Come". Let everyone who hears them say, "Come".

Let all who are thirsty come to receive the free gift of the water of life.

See, I am coming soon.'

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 17.20-26*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven, and said, 'Father, I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word.

May they all be one.

As you live in me, and I live in you, may they live in us.

And through this, may the world come to believe that you sent me.

The glory that you gave to me, I have given to them.

May they be one, as we are one.

As I live in them, and you live in me, may the world know that you sent me,

and that you have loved them as you have loved me.

Father, I pray also that those you have given to me will continue to be with me,

to see the glory that you have given to me, having loved me since before the foundation of the world.

Most Holy Father, the world does not know you, but I know you;

and these know that you have sent me.

I have made you known to them, and I will continue to make you known to them, so that the love, with which you have loved me, may be in them, as I live in them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 8 JUNE

Pentecost

FIRST READING – *Acts 2.1-21*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples
were all together in one place,
when suddenly, all around them,
there was a sound
like the rush of a violent wind,
filling the entire house
where they were meeting.
Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,
and rested on each of them.
And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,
and began to speak in many languages.
At this sound,
a crowd began to gather,
made up of Jewish believers who were
staying in Jerusalem -
from Asia and Arabia,
Egypt and North Africa,
Judea, Turkey, Syria,
Greece and the Balkans,
Crete, and Rome,
both Hebrews and converts.
They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking
are all from Galilee.
And yet we hear them
declaring the greatness of God,
each
in our own language.
What can this mean?'
But others mocked and said, 'They have had
too much wine.'
Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice,
and addressed the crowd, saying:
'People of Judea,
and all who are here in Jerusalem:
these are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
No; this is what was spoken
through the prophet Joel,
when God declared: "In those days,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
The young will see visions,
your elders will dream dreams,
and your sons and your daughters
will receive and proclaim my word.
There will be wonders and signs
in the heavens, and on the earth:
blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,
the sun turned to darkness
and the moon blood red,
before the coming
of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord
will be saved.'"
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Romans 8.14-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that you are led
by the spirit of God,
you are adopted
as children of God.
God receives you
not as slaves, to fall back into fear,
but as adopted children,
able to address God
as 'Abba' and 'Father'.
And being adopted
as children of God,
we inherit all things,
alongside Christ Jesus himself,
including
both his suffering
and his glory.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 14.8-17*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord,
show us the Father.'
Jesus said, 'Philip,
have I been with you, all this time,
and still, you do not know me?
Whoever has seen me
has seen the Father,
for I am in the Father,
and the Father is in me.
The words that I say to you
I do not speak on my own;
they are the words of the Father.
And in the works that I do,
you see the work of the Father.
And now, those who believe in me
will do all that I have done,
and more,
because I am returning to the Father.
And I myself
will do
whatever you ask
in my name,
that the Father
may be glorified
in the Son.
And if you love me,
and live by all that I have taught you,
I will ask the Father,
and he will send you
the Holy Spirit,
to be with you -
the Spirit of truth,
unknown to the world,
but known to you,
to be alongside you,
amongst you,
and within you.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 15 JUNE

Trinity Sunday

FIRST READING – *Proverbs 8.1-3, 22-31*

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Wisdom calls out,
and Understanding raises her voice.

On the hills, along the road,
and at the meeting of the ways,
she takes her stand.

At the city gates,
she declares: 'I was created
as the first
of the works of the Lord.

Before the beginning
of the earth,
I was established.

Before the mountains and the hills
had been formed,
before there were springs of water,
before there was even
dust

upon the ground,

Wisdom
was brought forth.

When the Lord established the heavens,
I was there.

When the Lord drew a circle
on the face
of the deep,

made firm the skies above,
and set the boundaries
of the oceans,

I was the skilled apprentice
at the Master's side.

I was daily
the Lord's delight,
rejoicing
in the presence of the Lord,
and rejoicing
in the whole of creation,
and the whole human race.

So now, my children, hear me -
for blessed are those who walk
in the ways of Wisdom.

Hear my teaching, and be wise;
do not refuse it.

For those who lack wisdom
do themselves harm,
but blessed
are those who learn Wisdom,
attending every day to my teaching.

To hate Wisdom
is to love death -
but those who find Wisdom
find life,
and the favour of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Romans 5.1-5*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We have been reconciled with God, by faith,
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now we stand, with joyful confidence,
in the grace,
and the peace,
and the glory of God.

We rejoice even in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces confidence.

And we know
that this confidence
will not be disappointed -

because God's love
has been poured into our hearts
through the gift
of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 16.12-15*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I still have
many things
to say to you.

You cannot bear them now.

But the Spirit of Truth

will come to you,
and guide you
into all truth,

disclosing to you
the things
that are to come,

and honouring me,
by taking what is mine
and declaring it to you.

All that the Father has
is mine;

and the Spirit of Truth
will take what is mine,
and make it known
to you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 22 JUNE

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 65.2-5,8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I call out, even to a people
that does not call to me, says the Lord.
I hold out my hand to them, even though
they are a people in rebellion against me.
They walk in wicked ways; they provoke me continually,
sacrificing in gardens, burning incense on bricks,
dwelling amongst the tombs, eating forbidden foods,
then claiming to be
so holy
that others
must not come near.
They irritate like smoke in my nostrils
from a fire that burns all day long!
And yet, for the sake of the good that remains in them,
I will not destroy them, says the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Galatians 3.21,23-29*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The law can bring neither life, nor righteousness.
Yet the law served as our guardian, until the time
when Christ came to reconcile us to God
not by law, but by faith.
And now, we are no longer subject to the law
as a guardian,
for by faith in Christ Jesus,
we are made children of God.
And indeed, all those who are baptised into Christ
are equally adopted as children of God.
There is neither Judean nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female;
for all are one in Christ Jesus.
And all become inheritors, together,
of the promises made
to Abraham.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 8.1-3,26-39*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus travelled on, through towns and villages,
proclaiming the good news
of the kingdom of God.
Amongst those travelling with Jesus and the twelve
were some women who had been healed,
or freed from tormenting spirits.
The women included
Mary Magdalene, who had been
freed from seven demons,
and Joanna, who was the wife
of a leading member of Herod's court.
There was also Susanna;
and there were many others.
These women helped to provide for Jesus,
and all the disciples,
out of their own resources.

Jesus and the disciples
travelled by boat
to the eastern side
of the sea of Galilee.
As Jesus stepped ashore,
he was met
by a man from the city who was
tormented by demons.
The man was kept under guard, and in chains,
but he would break out,
and live wild amongst the tombs.
When Jesus commanded
the unclean spirit
to come out of him,
the man fell down at Jesus' feet,
and shouted out, 'Why are you here, Jesus,
Son of God Most High?
I beg you, do not torment me!'
Jesus asked, 'What is your name?'
And the man replied,
'Legion';
for many demons had entered him;
and they begged Jesus
not to order them
into the abyss.
A large herd of pigs
was feeding on the hillside,
and the demons begged Jesus
to let them enter these instead,
and Jesus permitted them.
So the demons
came out of the man,
and entered
into the pigs.
And the entire herd
rushed down
the steep bank
into the lake,
and was drowned.
When those who were responsible for the pigs
saw what had happened,
they fled,
telling everyone,
in the city,
and in the surrounding countryside,
what had happened.
When people came to see,
they found the man,
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and calm.
Overcome with fear,
they asked Jesus to leave.
Jesus returned to the boat
in which he had arrived.
The man who had been freed from the demons
begged to join those
travelling with Jesus,
but Jesus said, 'Return to your home,
and tell them there
of all that God has done for you.'
And he went and told, throughout the city,
of all that Jesus had done for him.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 29 JUNE*Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***FIRST READING – 1 Kings 19.15a, 16b, 19-21**

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to the prophet Elijah,
 ‘You are to go
 to the wilderness of Damascus,
 to anoint Elisha to be my prophet, in your place.’
 So Elijah travelled to the wilderness of Damascus,
 and found Elisha, ploughing in a field,
 with twelve pairs of oxen
 working ahead of him.
 Elijah walked past Elisha,
 and as he did so, he threw his cloak over him.
 Elisha left the oxen,
 and ran after Elijah,
 saying, ‘Let me bid farewell
 to my father and mother,
 and then I will follow you.’
 Elijah replied, ‘Go back to them then.
 I have done what I had to do.’
 Returning to the field,
 Elisha slaughtered the oxen, and used
 the wooden equipment
 to light a fire,
 on which he cooked the oxen.
 Elisha gave
 the cooked meat
 to the people,
 and they ate.
 Then Elisha
 set out, and followed Elijah.
 This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Galatians 5.17-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The works of the flesh,
 in opposition to the spirit,
 are hatred and conflict, jealousy and anger;
 arguments, rivalries, and factions;
 sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry,
 sorcery, and excesses of all kinds.
 I say again: those who live in this way
 are not inheriting the kingdom of God.
 By contrast, the fruit of the spirit is
 love, joy, peace,
 patience, kindness, goodness,
 faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
 There is no law
 against
 these fruits of the spirit -
 so if you are truly led by the spirit,
 you are not
 subject
 to any law!
 Those who belong to Christ Jesus
 have crucified the flesh,
 with its passions and desires,
 and live now,
 not by the flesh, but by the spirit.
 This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 9.51-62

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The time was drawing near
 for Jesus
 to be lifted up,
 and he set his face
 towards Jerusalem.
 He sent
 messengers
 ahead of him.
 And the messengers
 entered a village
 in Samaria.
 But the villagers
 would not receive him,
 because
 his face was set
 towards Jerusalem.
 The disciples James and John
 said, ‘Lord,
 do you want us
 to call down
 fire
 from heaven
 to destroy them?’
 But Jesus turned and rebuked them,
 and they went on
 to another village.
 As they were travelling along the road,
 someone said to Jesus,
 ‘I will follow you
 wherever you go.’
 Jesus said, ‘Foxes have holes,
 and birds have nests,
 but the Son of Man
 has nowhere
 to lay his head.’
 When Jesus called another
 to follow him,
 the reply was, ‘Let me first go
 and bury my father.’
 But Jesus said, ‘Let the dead
 bury
 their own dead;
 you,
 go and proclaim
 the kingdom of God!’
 Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord;
 but let me first
 bid farewell
 to my household.’
 Jesus said, ‘If you put your hand to the plough,
 and then look backwards,
 you are not yet ready
 for the kingdom of God.’
 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 6 JULY*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***FIRST READING – Isaiah 66.10-14a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Sing for joy with all Jerusalem!

All who love her, rejoice!

Mourn no longer,

for she will be great once again!

And you will be comforted,

like a child in a mother's embrace!

For the Lord will grant her

peace like a river,

and the glory of the nations!

As a mother comforts her child,

so the Lord will comfort you, in Jerusalem.

You will be carried on her arm,

and held in her lap.

When you see it,

your heart will rejoice,

and you will flourish like the tender grass.

And all who serve the Lord

will know

that the hand of the Lord

is with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Colossians 1.3-4,9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

We joyfully give thanks to God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

whenever we pray for you,

for we have heard

of your great faith in Christ Jesus,

and the love that you have

for all the saints.

We pray that God will fill you

with the knowledge of God's will,

and with spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray that God will fill you

with all of the glorious power of God:

with strength, and endurance,

with patience, and with perseverance

to lead lives which are worthy of the Lord,

and fully pleasing to the Lord,

so that you can bear fruit,

in every good work, as you grow

in the knowledge of God.

And we always joyfully give thanks

to God the Father, who has

rescued us from darkness,

and has brought us

into the full inheritance

of the saints

in light,

in the kingdom

of his beloved Son, who has

bought us

our freedom

and forgiveness.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 10.1-11, 17-20, 23-24

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy

to go ahead of him, in pairs, to every

town and place

where he himself

intended to go.

As he sent them on their way,

he said to them,

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few -

so ask the Lord of the harvest

to send more workers for the harvest.

And yet I send you out

like lambs amongst wolves.

Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes, as you go.

Do not delay your journey

by greeting all those

you meet along the way.

When you enter a house,

offer a greeting of peace.

If your hosts

are people of peace,

your peace

will rest upon them -

and if they are not,

your peace

will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking

whatever they provide,

for a worker

deserves to be paid.

When you enter a town, and they welcome you,

eat whatever they offer you,

heal the sick,

and say to them, "The kingdom of God

has come near to you."

When you enter a town, and they do not welcome you,

stand in their streets and say,

"We wipe the dust of this place off our feet

in protest against you.

But still know this: that the kingdom of God

has come near to you."

But the seventy returned with joy,

saying, 'Lord, even the demons obey

when we speak in your name.'

Jesus said, 'I watched Satan fall

like a flash of lightning; for I have given you authority

over all the power of the enemy,

and nothing can harm you.

But the greatest joy

is this: that your names

are written in heaven.

And blessed are the eyes

that see

what you see.

For prophets and kings

longed to see

what you now see,

and to hear

what you now hear.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 13 JULY

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 30.10-14*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Return to the Lord your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul.
Trust in the Lord your God,
and observe the commandments and decrees
that are written
in this book of the law.
The commandment of the Lord
that I bring to you, today,
is not
too hard for you.
Neither is it
too far away,
as though you would
need someone
to cross the ocean, or go up to heaven,
to bring it to you.
No, for the commandment of the Lord
is very near to you;
it is already
on your lips, and in your heart.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Colossians 1.15-20*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ,
and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things,
in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 10.25-37*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.
'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do
to receive eternal life?'
Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law?
And what is your understanding of it?'
The lawyer answered, 'You shall love
the Lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
And you shall love your neighbour
as yourself.'
Jesus said to him, 'You have given a good answer.
Do this, and you will live.'
Still wanting to justify himself,
the lawyer asked Jesus, 'But who is my neighbour?'
Jesus replied,
'A man was travelling on the road
from Jerusalem to Jericho,
when he was set upon
by robbers, who took everything he had,
and beat him, and left him for dead.
Now by chance, a priest
was going down the same road;
and when the priest saw the wounded man,
he passed by on the other side.
In the same way, a Levite
came to the place, and seeing the wounded man,
he also passed by on the other side.
But a Samaritan, travelling that way,
saw the wounded man,
and was moved with pity.
The Samaritan
went to the wounded man,
and poured oil and wine
on his wounds,
and bandaged them.
Then the Samaritan
put the wounded man
on his own horse,
brought him to an inn,
and took care of him.
The next day, the Samaritan took out
two silver coins,
and gave them to the innkeeper,
saying, "Take care of him;
and whatever more you spend,
I will pay you
when I return."
Which of these three, do you think,
was a neighbour,
to the man who was set upon
by the robbers?'
The lawyer said,
'The one who showed him mercy.'
Jesus said to the lawyer,
'Go and do likewise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 20 JULY*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***FIRST READING – Genesis 18.1-10a**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is how the Lord
appeared to Abraham
at Hebron.

As Abraham sat
at the entrance to his tent
in the heat of the day,
he looked up
and saw three figures
standing near by.
He ran to them,
and bowed down,
saying, 'My Lord,
if I have found favour in your sight,
do not pass by,
but rest here
in the shade,
and let me bring water
to wash your feet,
and bread,
that you may eat,
and be restored,
before you continue
on your way.'

Abraham hurried back to the tent,
and asked Sarah
to prepare three measures
of the finest flour,
and knead it quickly
to make bread.

He went out
to the cattle,
and took the best calf,
and gave it to the servant,
to prepare it.

Then he took butter,
and milk,
and the meat of the calf,
and set it before the three visitors.

And he stood by them,
in the shade of the tree,
while they ate.

They said to Abraham,
'Where is Sarah, your wife?'

Abraham said, 'She is there,
in the tent.'

And one of them said,
'I will surely return to you
when the time is right,
and Sarah, your wife,
will have a son.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Colossians 2.12-14, 3.1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Once, we were dead
in our trespasses,
and in the corruption of our flesh.
But now, we have been raised up
to new life in Christ.
All our trespasses are forgiven;
the account that stood against us
has been erased;
all of its demands have been
nailed to the cross.
In our baptism, first we were
buried with Christ;
then, we were raised up
to new life with Christ;
and all this
through our faith in the power of God, who
raised Christ from the dead.
So, now that we have been raised up
to new life in Christ,
let us set our minds
no longer on the things of earth,
but on the things that are above,
where Christ is seated
at the right hand of God.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 10.38-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus and his disciples
entered a village
as they continued on their way.
In that village, a woman called Martha
welcomed Jesus into her home.
Martha had a sister called Mary,
and Mary sat at the Lord's feet,
listening
to his words.

But Martha was distracted
by her many tasks;
and she said to Jesus, 'Lord,
do you not care
that my sister
has left me
to do all the work
by myself?'

Tell her
that she is
to help me!'

But the Lord answered her, 'Martha,
you are anxious
and distracted
by many things,
but there is need
of only one.

Mary has chosen
that one good thing,
and it will not
be taken away from her.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 27 JULY

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Genesis 18.23-32*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham approached the Lord and said,

‘Will the Lord destroy the righteous
along with the wicked?’

If there are fifty righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the whole city,
including the fifty righteous
within it?

Surely the Lord will not
do such a thing,
to slay the righteous
along with the wicked.

Surely the Judge of all the earth
will do what is right.’

And the Lord said, ‘If I find fifty righteous
in the city,
I will spare the whole city
for their sake.’

Abraham said,

‘Let me dare to speak again to the Lord,
even though I am but dust and ashes.

If there are only forty-five righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the city
for the lack of five?’

And the Lord said, ‘I will not
destroy the city,
if I find forty-five righteous there.’

Again, Abraham spoke to the Lord, for forty,
and thirty, and twenty, righteous.

And Abraham said, ‘Oh do not
let the Lord be angry,
if I speak one more time.

If only ten righteous are found,
will the Lord destroy the city?’

And the Lord answered, ‘For the sake of ten
righteous, I will not
destroy the city.’

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Colossians 3.12-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

You are now

God’s chosen ones,
holy, and loved by God.

So clothe yourselves
with compassion, and kindness;
and with humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be gentle with one another.

And if any one amongst you
has a complaint against another,
forgive one another,
as the Lord has forgiven you.

Above all, let there be love, which is
the bond of perfect unity.

And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,
for to this we are called,
as one body in Christ.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly within you,
so that in wisdom
you may teach and encourage one another.
And with grateful hearts, sing to God
with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
always giving thanks to God the Father
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 11.1-13*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

One of the disciples
said to Jesus, ‘Lord,
teach us to pray,
as John
taught his disciples.’

Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, holy is your name;
may your kingdom come.
Give us, each day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we ourselves forgive
everyone who trespasses against us.
And do not bring us
to the time of trial.’

Then he said to them, ‘If you go to a friend,
at midnight, saying, “Lend me some bread,
for a guest has arrived,
and I have nothing prepared,”
your friend may answer, from within,
“Do not bother me;
for the door is locked, and we are all in bed.”

But I tell you, while your friend may not
get up and give you anything
because of your friendship,
eventually, because of your persistence,
your friend will get up and give you
whatever you need.

So I say to you:

ask, and it will be given;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened.

For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.

If your child asks
for a fish, or an egg,
you do not
give a snake, or a scorpion.

Even the wicked
know how to give
good gifts
to their children.

How much more
will our heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Ecclesiastes 1.12-14; 2.18-26a*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

When I, the Teacher,
was king, over Israel, in Jerusalem,
I applied my mind
to understand, by wisdom,
all that is done
under heaven.
I saw all the deeds that are done
under the sun.
And look, this is what I saw: that it is
a tiresome burden
that God has given
to occupy humankind;
that all of it
is vanity,
like chasing after the wind.
I came to despise
all that I had done,
and all that I had laboured to achieve,
seeing that I must leave it all
to those who come after me,
not knowing
whether they will be
wise, or foolish.
Yet they will be master
over everything
for which I laboured -
everything to which
I applied my wisdom.
So I gave up my heart to despair
concerning all my work,
because even one who has laboured
with wisdom, and knowledge, and skill,
must leave it all
to be enjoyed
by another, who did not work for it;
and this is a great injustice.
For mortals gain nothing
for all their labour under the sun.
Their days are full of pain,
and each task is a burden.
Even at night,
their minds do not rest.
But then I saw this,
from the hand of God:
that there is nothing better for mortals
than to eat, and drink,
and find enjoyment in their work;
for no mortal
can eat,
or drink, or find joy,
without God.
And while the sinner labours
to store up wealth
that will only be taken away,
to the one who pleases God, God gives
wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 10.32-36*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
When you first received the light of Christ,
you endured great suffering,
with public slanders, and persecutions.
And you supported
those who were suffering in the same way.
You had compassion
on those who were in prison.
And you cheerfully accepted
the loss of your possessions,
knowing that you have
a greater possession
that does not pass away.
Never let go
of that faith and confidence,
for it holds a great reward.
And then, when you have persevered
in doing the will of God, you will receive
all that God has promised.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 12.13-21*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Someone in the crowd
said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother
to divide his inheritance with me.'
But Jesus said, 'Watch out,
and be on your guard,
against every kind of jealousy and greed!
For the richness of your life
is not found
in the quantity
of your worldly possessions!'
And Jesus told them this parable.
'After another great harvest,
a wealthy land-owner
said to himself,
"I have run out of space
to store all my crops.
I will have to
pull down my barns,
and build larger ones,
to store all my grain,
and all my possessions.
Then, having enough
to last many years,
I will relax,
eat, drink, and be merry."
But God said
to him, "You fool!
This very night, your life
is being taken from you.
And all the things you have acquired -
whose will they be?"
And Jesus said to them, 'This is how it will be
for those who store up
treasure for themselves on earth,
but in God's eyes
have no riches at all.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Genesis 12.1-7*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country,
and your people,
and your father's house,
and go to the land
that I will show you.

I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
and I will make your name great,
and you yourself
will be a blessing.

I will bless
those who bless you.

And I will turn my face away
from those who dishonour you.

And through you,
all the nations of the earth
will be blessed.'

So Abram set out,
as the Lord had directed.

He was seventy-five years old
when he departed from Haran.

He took his wife Sara, and his nephew Lot,
and all their possessions,
and all the people of their household.

They came to the land of Canaan;
and they passed through the land,
and its people,
to a great oak, in the centre of the land.

There, the Lord appeared to Abram,
saying, 'To your offspring,
I will give this land.'

And Abram built an altar there,
to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 11.1, 8-10*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith

is the assurance of things hoped for;
and confidence, in things not yet seen.

It was by faith

that Abraham trusted, and obeyed,
when he was called to set out to a place
that would become his inheritance.

It was by faith

that he set out
before he even knew the destination.

It was by faith

that he lived there,
like a stranger in a foreign land,
without any settled home;
as did Isaac, and Jacob, after him.

For by faith,

they could look forward, in confident expectation,
to the city with a sure foundation,
designed and built by God.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 12.22-34*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,

'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat,
or about your body, what you will wear.

There is more to life

than food,

and there is more to the body
than clothing!

Look at the birds:

they do not plant
or harvest;

they have no storehouse, or barn,
and yet God feeds them.

And you are more valuable
than the birds.

Worrying will not add
a single hour
to your span of life.

Look at the wild flowers,
how they grow:

they do not

weave or sew, and yet
not even Solomon,
in all his glory,
was clothed
as finely as these!

If God clothes

the grass of the field
with such glory -
grass which is alive today, and dried up tomorrow -

how much more

will God clothe you!

So have faith!

Do not be anxious

for what you will eat,
or what you will drink.

Do not worry about these things,
for your Father knows
that you need them.

Seek first

the Father's kingdom,
and all these other things
will be given to you
as well.

Do not be afraid,

for your Father longs
to give you
the kingdom.

So sell what you have,
and give
to those in need.

Store up your treasure in heaven,
where nothing decays,
and no thief
can come near.

And where your treasure is,
there
your heart will be
also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 23.25-29*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

I have heard

the false prophets, who speak
lies and delusions
in my name,
says the Lord.

Like those who went before them,
they make my people
forget my name,
by the lies
that they tell
one another.

Let the prophets who have delusions
tell their delusions -

but let the prophets who have my word
proclaim it with confidence.

They differ
like straw
from grain,

for my word
is like fire,
or like a hammer
that breaks a rock
into pieces,
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 12.1-3*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Inspired by these people of great faith,
from every generation,

let us run with perseverance
the race that is now set before us,
throwing off
every burden

that would hold us back,
and looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Confident in the greater joy
that lay beyond,

Jesus endured the cross,
disregarding its shame.

And now he seated in glory,
at the right hand of God.

May his patient endurance
of such hostility from sinners
be our inspiration,
that we may never grow weary
or lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 12.49-56*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have come
to bring fire
to the earth,
and how I long
to see it burning.

I have a baptism
to undergo,
and I am distressed
until
it is completed.

You think
that I have come
to bring peace
to the earth.

But I tell you -
not peace
but division.

Even households
will be divided,
three

against two,
and two
against three;

father
against son,
mother
against daughter,
members

of the household
against
each other.

When you see
clouds
in the west,

you know
that
rain
is on its way.

And when you see
wind
from the south,

you know
there
will be
scorching heat.

You know
how to interpret
the appearance
of earth
and sky,

and yet
you do not know
how to interpret
this present time!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 58.9-14*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the heavy burdens
from the weary amongst you,
if you offer food to the hungry,
and address the needs
of those who are suffering,
and if you refrain from pointing the finger
and speaking wickedness,
then
your light
will rise in the darkness,
your gloom
will become
like the brightness
of the midday sun,
and when you cry for help,
the Lord will answer.
Then the Lord will guide you,
provide for you, and strengthen you.
Then you will flourish
like a garden, by a stream that never runs dry.
Then you will rebuild the city from its ruins,
restoring its walls
and its homes.
If you honour the sabbath,
and call the Lord's day
a delight,
not trampling its dignity
by serving your own interests,
or pursuing your own affairs,
then
you will find your joy in the Lord,
and in all the gifts
that the Lord has given.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 12.22-24, 28-29*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We come now
to Mount Zion,
the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem.
We come to the place
where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice;
the place where those who have gone before us
are welcomed into heaven,
and the spirits of the righteous
are made perfect.
We come to God, the judge of all;
and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant;
and to redemption by his blood.
As we enter now
into a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
let us offer our worship
with thanksgiving, reverence, and even holy fear,
for our God is still 'a consuming fire'.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 13.10-17*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching
in one of the synagogues
on the sabbath.
A woman was there, who had suffered
a disabling weakness
for eighteen years.
She was bent over, unable
to stand upright.
Jesus saw her, and spoke to her,
saying, 'You are set free
from your illness.'
As he spoke,
he laid a hand upon her;
and immediately,
she stood fully upright;
and she began
praising and glorifying God.
But the leader of the synagogue
was indignant
because Jesus had healed her
on the sabbath.
The leader of the synagogue
said to the crowd,
'There are six days
on which work should be done.
Let healing be done
on those days,
not on the sabbath.'
But the Lord answered him,
saying, 'You hypocrite!
Every one of you, on the sabbath,
would untie your donkey,
and lead it to water.
This woman
is a daughter of Abraham,
kept bound
by Satan
for eighteen years.
And you would refuse to release her,
just because
it is the sabbath!'
All his opponents
were put to shame
by these words.
And the entire crowd
was rejoicing
at the wonderful things
that he was doing.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 16.9-12*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Seven weeks after the first cut of the harvest,
you are to keep a festival to the Lord your God.
From the bounty of your harvest,
you are to make
a free-will offering,
and celebrate,
in the presence of the Lord,
with your sons and daughters,
and your servants,
and the Levites in your towns,
and also the foreigners,
and the orphans,
and the widows, who are amongst you.
You are all to celebrate together
in the place
that the Lord your God
will choose
as a dwelling for God's holy name.
You must carefully
observe these commands,
for you must never forget
that you were once, yourselves,
in slavery, in Egypt.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 13.1-9a, 15-16*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
Keep on loving one another
as brothers and sisters in Christ.
And show hospitality
to whoever comes to you,
for by doing this, some have hosted
angels, without knowing it.
Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were
in prison alongside them.
Remember all who are
mistreated, as though you yourself
were suffering with them, as one body.
Let marriage be held in honour
by all.
Keep your lives free
from the love of money.
Find contentment
in what you have.
For God has said, 'I will never
leave you, nor forsake you.'
So we can say with confidence:
'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'
Remember the leaders who
first brought
the word of God to you,
and the good
that they achieved
by their way of living,
and follow their example of faith.

Do not be led astray
by every new idea,
for Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and for ever.
And now, let us be
continually
offering to God, through Christ,
worthy and acceptable sacrifices
of both words and deeds,
by praise and proclamation of God's name,
and by doing good works - including
sharing all that we have.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 14.1, 7-14*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
One sabbath day, Jesus was dining
in the house
of a one of the leaders of the Pharisees.
He saw
how the guests
chose the places of honour,
and he told them this parable.
'When you are invited
to a wedding feast,
do not sit down
straight away
at the highest table,
for you may then be told
to give up that place
to another guest,
and the only place left
might be
the furthest away.
But go and sit first
in a humble place,
and your host
might say, "Friend, come up and sit closer,"
and in this way, you will be honoured
in front of all the other guests.
For those who place themselves
above others
will be brought down.
But those who choose to be humble
will be lifted up.'
And to the one who had
invited him, Jesus said:
'When you host a meal,
do not invite your friends, or your relatives,
or your wealthy neighbours,
for they will invite you
in return, and you will be repaid.
But when you host a banquet,
invite the poor, and the weak,
the lame, and the blind;
and you will be blessed, because
they cannot repay you.
And you will be repaid
at the resurrection
of the righteous.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 30.15-20*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Today I set before you
life and prosperity,
or death and adversity.
If you love the Lord your God,
and keep the commandments of the Lord your God,
you will live, and become numerous,
and the Lord your God will bless you,
in the land that you are entering to possess.
But if your heart turns away,
and you do not
hear and receive these words,
but instead
allow yourselves
to be led astray,
to bow down to other gods, and serve them,
I declare today
that you will perish;
that you will not
live long
in the land that you are crossing the Jordan
to enter and possess.
I call on heaven and earth
to serve as witnesses today,
as I set before you the choice of
life or death, of
blessing or adversity.
Now choose life,
for yourselves, and your descendants,
by loving, trusting, and holding fast
to the Lord your God.
For the Lord is your life.
And so may you
live long
in the land
that the Lord promised to your ancestors -
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *Philemon 10,12-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I am writing to appeal to you
regarding Onesimus, who has
become like a son to me
during my imprisonment.
In sending him back to you,
I am sending my own heart.
I wanted to keep him with me,
so that he might be of service to me,
while I am in chains for the gospel;
but I preferred
not to make
any such decision
without your consent,
so that your goodness
might be voluntary,
and not imposed upon you.

Perhaps Onesimus was even
separated from you
for a while
so that you might have him back
for ever;
and have him back
no longer as a servant,
but as a dear brother,
both as a fellow human being,
and as a brother in the Lord.
As he has been very dear
to me,
may he now be
even more dear
to you.
I ask you to welcome him
as you would welcome me.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 14.25-33*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Large crowds
were now following Jesus.
He turned
and said to them,
'If you come to me,
to be my disciple,
you must be ready
to give up
all that you have;
ready
to forsake
father and mother,
wife and children,
brothers and sisters,
even life itself;
ready
to carry your cross,
and follow me.'
And he told them
two parables.
'Before you start to build a tower,
you must work out
whether you can afford to complete it;
for if you abandon it, incomplete,
all who see it
will mock.
And a king
will not go to war
if his army is unprepared
for the forces of the enemy;
instead, he will send a delegation
to ask the terms for peace.
In the same way, you cannot
become my disciple
unless you are ready
to give up
all that you have.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Exodus 32.7-8,10-11,13-14*

A reading from the book of Exodus.

At the top of Mount Sinai,
the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down
at once
to your people,
the people you brought
out of Egypt,
for they have corrupted themselves.
They have already turned aside
from the way that I commanded them.
They have made for themselves
an image
of a calf;
and they have worshipped it,
and made sacrifices to it.
They have even declared
that this is the god who
brought them out of Egypt.
Now let my anger
burn hot against them
to destroy them.
And from you alone
I will make a great nation.'
But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God,
saying, 'O Lord,
do not let your anger
burn hot against your people,
the people you brought out of Egypt
with great power
and with your own
mighty hand.
Remember your promise
to your servants
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
that you would multiply their descendants
like the stars of heaven,
and give them this land
as their inheritance.'
And the Lord heard
Moses' plea,
and drew back
from anger
at the rebellion of the people.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Timothy 1.12-17*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I give thanks
to Jesus Christ our Lord
for showing the utmost patience
in strengthening me, raising me up,
and appointing me into his service;
and so demonstrating in me, the worst of all sinners,
the truth I now proclaim,
that it might be heard and received, in every nation:
that Christ Jesus
came into the world
to save sinners.

For in my ignorance and unbelief,
I was surely
the worst of all sinners,
persecuting,
slandering, and abusing the church.
But the saving mercy and grace of our Lord
overflowed for me
even more,
that with the faith
and love
that are in Christ Jesus,
I myself
might be an example
of God's saving mercy and grace
for all who will come to believe
in Christ Jesus
for eternal life.
To the King
of the ages,
immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory for ever.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 15.1-10*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were collectors of the Roman taxes,
and other notorious sinners.
Jesus welcomed them,
and would even sit and eat with them.
For this, the Pharisees and the scribes
complained
against Jesus.
So Jesus told them this parable:
'If you have a hundred sheep, and lose one,
you surely leave
the ninety-nine, feeding in the pasture,
and go searching
for the one that is lost.
And when you find it, you carry it home,
and you call your friends and neighbours,
"Come, celebrate with me!
I have found the sheep that was lost!"
In the same way,
there is more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents,
than over ninety-nine righteous, who need
no repentance.
And if a woman has ten silver coins, and loses one,
she lights a lamp,
sweeps the house,
and searches until she finds it.
Then she calls her friends and neighbours, "Come,
celebrate with me!
I have found the silver coin that was lost."
In the same way,
when one sinner repents,
all the angels of God rejoice.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Amos 8.4-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Hear this,
you that trample
on the needy,
and bring the poor of the land
to ruin!
You long
for the new moon holiday
to be over,
you long
for the sabbath
to end,
so that you can return
to trading
in wheat and grain,
with your dishonest
balances, measures, and weights,
and the chaff
still in
with the wheat.
With your silver
you buy the poor;
and you enslave the needy
for a single pair of shoes.
The Lord has sworn,
by the honour of Jacob: I will not
forget your deeds.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Timothy 2.1-7*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

Pray,
and give thanks,
for everyone;
including kings,
and all in authority;
that there may be peace,
so that we can live
with godliness,
and dignity.
For God our Saviour
longs for everyone
to be saved,
and to know this truth -
the truth I was called to proclaim
to all nations
as an apostle -
that there is
one God,
and there is
one mediator
between God and humankind -
Christ Jesus,
himself human, who gave himself
as a ransom for all.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 16.1-13*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said, 'A rich man's manager
was accused
of wasteful spending.
So the rich man told the manager
to finalise his accounts, and leave.
The manager said to himself, "What can I do,
now that my master
is dismissing me?
I am too weak to dig,
and too ashamed to beg."
So the manager devised a plan,
to ensure that when he left his employment,
people would welcome him
into their homes.
He summoned his master's debtors, one by one,
and asked them how much they owed.
One owed a hundred sacks of wheat;
the manager told him
to sit down, take his account, and quickly
change it to eighty.
Another owed a hundred jugs of oil;
the manager told him to take his account,
and change it to fifty.
And the rich man
was actually impressed
to see just how expertly
the dishonest manager
could work
to protect his own interests.
For the children of this age
are more expert
than the children of light
in dealing
with their own generation!
So I tell you,
use your worldly wealth
to make friends for yourselves,
so that
you have
friends who will
welcome you
into their homes
when all your worldly wealth
is gone.
Now only
those who do what is right
with minor things
will be trusted
with greater things.
So do what is right with your worldly wealth,
and you will be entrusted with true riches.
Do what is right for others,
and they will do what is right for you.
You cannot serve two masters,
for you will love one, and hate the other:
you cannot serve
both God
and worldly wealth.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Amos 6.1,4-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Leaders of the nation -

all of Israel looks to you!

In Jerusalem you take your rest;

in Samaria you feel secure.

You lounge

on your couches
made of ivory.

You feast

on veal and lamb.

You make music,

and sing your idle songs.

You anoint yourselves with oil,

and drink wine by the bowl.

And you are unmoved

by the destruction
that has come upon
the tribes of the north.

So hear this, you leaders of the nation:

your revelry
will end

when you are
the first

to be taken away into exile!

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *1 Timothy 6.6-12a,17-19*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

We brought nothing into the world,
and we take nothing out.

So if we have food, and clothing, let us be
content with that.

For true riches are to be found

in godliness
combined with
contentment.

Those who long to be rich in this world

fall into temptation,
and are trapped
by many foolish and harmful desires
that plunge them into ruin and destruction.

The love of worldly wealth

is the root
of all manner
of evil;

pulling people away from the faith,
and repeatedly causing them
pain and distress.

So flee from all this,

and instead
seek righteousness, godliness,
faith, love,
patience, and gentleness.

Work always to be strong in the faith,

holding fast to the eternal life
to which you are called.

As for those of you who are
wealthy

in this present age:

do not be arrogant,

and do not look for security
in the uncertainty of riches;

but find your security in God,

for it is God who richly provides us
with all things
to enjoy.

By generosity, and sharing,

be rich in good works;

and from this foundation, hold fast

to the life

that is truly life.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 16.13b-15,19-31*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The Pharisees loved their worldly riches.

They mocked Jesus, when they heard him say

that you cannot serve
both God and worldly wealth.

Jesus said to them, 'You make yourselves

look righteous to others,
but God sees your heart;

and the things that you value, God despises.

And he told them this parable.

'There was a rich man,

dressed in purple, and fine linen,
feasting, and living in luxury, every day.

At his gate lay a poor man, called Lazarus,
hungry, and ready to eat whatever scraps

fell from the rich man's table;
and the dogs would come, and lick his sores.

Now the poor man died, and was carried away
by the angels, to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died, and was buried;

and from his great suffering, in the place of the dead,
he looked up, and saw Abraham, far away,
and Lazarus at his side;

and he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me!

I beg you, send Lazarus, to dip
the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue;
for I am in agony in these flames!"

But Abraham said, "My son, you received good things
in your life, while Lazarus knew only suffering.

And now, he is comforted here, while you suffer.
And a deep chasm lies between there and here,
that no one can cross."

He replied, "Then I beg you, send Lazarus

to warn my five brothers, so that they will not
come to this place of torment."

Abraham said, "They have Moses, and the prophets.

They should listen to them."

He replied, "But father Abraham, they will listen

if someone is sent to them from the dead."

But Abraham said, "If they do not listen

to Moses and the prophets, they will not believe
even if someone rises from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Habakkuk 1.2-4; 2.2-4*

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

I cried out to the Lord,

'How long, O Lord,

must I cry to you

for help?

All around, there is destruction,

violence, conflict, and distress.

Justice and law have broken down,

and the wicked

overpower the righteous.'

And the Lord answered me, saying,

'Write this message

in letters so large

that even a runner can see:

"Keep the faith!

For there will be justice at the appointed time.

The arrogant, and the powerful, will fall.

But the righteous, and the faithful, will live!"

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *2 Timothy 1.1-14*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

From Paul,

by God's grace, an apostle,

proclaiming the promise of life in Christ Jesus.

To Timothy.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you,

from God our Father

and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy, you are like a son to me,

and I give thanks to God,

as I remember you always, in my prayers,

recalling

the tears that you shed

as we parted,

and longing

for the joy

of seeing you again.

I give thanks to God

for your sincere faith -

the faith

that lived first

in your grandmother Lois,

and your mother Eunice,

and now, I know, lives in you.

Keep the flame

of the gift of God

burning brightly within you -

the gift that you received when I was with you,

when I commissioned you to God's service.

For God did not give us

a spirit of cowardice,

but a spirit of power, endurance, and love.

So do not be ashamed to speak about our Lord,

or about me, a prisoner for the sake of our Lord,

but join with me, in suffering for the sake of the gospel,

trusting in the power of God.

For God saved us,

and called us to a holy life,

not because of anything we had done,

but for God's own purposes,

and by God's grace alone -

grace that was given to us

in Christ Jesus

before the world began.

This saving grace

has now been made known to us

by the coming

of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has

abolished death,

and, by the light of the gospel,

has opened for us

the way to everlasting life.

It is for this message of God's grace

that I was appointed apostle, and teacher.

And it is for this message of God's grace

that I also suffer many trials.

But I have nothing to fear,

for I know

that the one I trust

will protect me

to the very end.

So hold fast

to all that you learned from me.

Hold fast to the faith and love

that you know in Christ Jesus.

And by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us,

treasure the gift that you have received.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 17.5-10*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

And the Lord said to them, 'If you had faith

the size of a mustard seed,

you could tell this tree

to go and plant itself

in the middle of the sea,

and it would be done.'

And the Lord said to them,

'When a servant comes in,

from ploughing the field, or tending the sheep,

he does not sit down to eat

with his master,

but at his master's command,

he prepares and serves

his master's supper,

before making his own.

And he expects no thanks.

In the same way,

when you have done all

that you are commanded to do,

you should have

the humility of a servant,

and say, "We have only done

what we ought to have done."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – 2 Kings 5.1-3, 5, 9-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman

was the highly-respected commander
of the Syrian army, which had
won many victories
under his command.

And yet Naaman, this mighty warrior,
suffered from leprosy.

On one of their raids,
the Syrian army
had taken a young girl captive
from the land of Israel,
and she was now a servant
to Naaman's wife.

This servant girl
told her mistress
that there was a prophet in Samaria
who could cure Naaman of his leprosy.

So, taking with him a letter from the king,
Naaman travelled to Samaria
with his horses and chariots,
taking silver, gold, and fine garments.

When Naaman arrived in Samaria,
at the house of Elisha the prophet,

Elisha sent out a messenger,
to say to Naaman, 'Go and wash, seven times,
in the river Jordan; and your flesh will be restored,
and you will be clean.'

But Naaman became angry, and went away,
saying, 'Surely the prophet could at least have
come out of his house,
called on the name
of the Lord his God,
and waved his hand over the leprosy, to cure it!
We have rivers of our own,
better than any in Israel!'

But his servants said, 'Sir,
if the prophet had commanded you
to do something difficult, you would have done it.
So surely you can do as the prophet commands,
when all he says
is to wash, and be clean.'

So Naaman went,
and washed, seven times,
in the river Jordan,
as Elisha the prophet had instructed.

And Naaman's flesh was restored
like that of a child; and he was clean.

Then Naaman returned, with all his servants,
and stood before Elisha, and said,
'Now I know
that there is no God in all the earth
except in Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 2 Timothy 3.11b-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have endured

so many persecutions;

but the Lord has rescued me from all of them.

All those who aim to live a godly life in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted;

and wickedness, and deception,
will increase.

But hold fast

to all that you have learned and believed,

trusting

those who taught you,

and trusting

in the holy scriptures

that you have known

from childhood, which gave you

the wisdom

to be ready for salvation

through faith in Christ Jesus.

For all scripture, inspired by God,

is useful for teaching, and learning,

and for growing in righteousness,

strengthening

and equipping us

for all

that God calls us to do.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 17.11-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

On his way to Jerusalem,

Jesus passed through the region
between Galilee and Samaria.

As he entered a village,

he was approached

by ten people

suffering with leprosy.

Keeping their distance,

they called out, 'Jesus, Master,

have mercy on us!'

Jesus said to them, 'Go and present yourselves
to the priests.'

And as they went,

they were made clean.

One of them, seeing that he was healed,

turned back,

praising God with a loud voice.

And he fell at Jesus' feet,

and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, 'Surely ten

were made clean?

Where are the other nine?

Has none returned,

to give glory to God,

except this foreigner?'

And he said to the Samaritan,

'Get up, and go on your way;

your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – *Genesis 32.22-30*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

While it was still dark,
Jacob led
his two wives, his two maids,
and his eleven children,
to the place
where they could cross
the river Jabbok.
Jacob sent them across
ahead of him,
with everything they had;
until only Jacob remained.
And there,
someone wrestled with Jacob
until daybreak.
And still failing
to overpower Jacob,
the one who was
wrestling with Jacob
finally struck Jacob
on the hip,
putting it out of joint,
and said,
'Let me go,
for it is nearly daybreak.'
But Jacob said, 'I will
not let you go,
unless
you bless me.'
The one who had wrestled with Jacob
asked Jacob
his name,
and then said,
'You shall
no longer be called Jacob,
but Israel,'
(which means 'wrestling with God'),
'for you have wrestled with God,
and with mortals,
and you have prevailed.'
And Jacob said,
'Now tell me your name.'
But the one who had wrestled with Jacob
said, 'Why is it
that you ask
my name?'
So Jacob called the place Peniel,
(which means 'the face of God')
saying, 'I have seen God,
face to face,
and yet I live.'
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *2 Timothy 4.2-5*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Preach the word of God,
with patience,
and persistence,
both when it is
received with joy,
and when it is not.
Teach and encourage,
persuade and challenge,
even argue and debate,
for there will be times
when people
turn away from the truth
to go chasing after fantasies,
listening to teachers who will say
whatever it is
they want to hear.
Continue then
all the more
in the work
that God has called you to do.
Keep a clear mind
in every situation;
endure through every hardship;
and proclaim the good news!
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 18.1-8a*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.
Jesus said, 'In a city,
there was a judge, who respected
neither God
nor the people.
In the same city,
there was a widow, who kept on
coming to the judge, saying, "Grant me justice
against my opponent!"
At first,
the judge refused.
But eventually,
the judge said to himself, "I respect
neither God
nor the people,
but because this widow
keeps bothering me,
I will grant her justice,
before she wears me out."
And Jesus said
to his disciples, 'Keep on praying,
and do not lose heart.
For God will surely
grant justice, and quickly,
to God's chosen ones, who
call out to God,
night and day.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Help us, O Lord, for you are

the hope of Israel,

our saviour

in time of trouble.

We know

that we have

rebelled against you.

Our trespasses are many,

and our offences

cry out to you.

But you, O Lord, are amongst us,

and we are

called by your name.

Do not reject us,

or dishonour your glorious throne,

but for the sake of your name,

remember the covenant

you made with us.

We set our hope

on you alone,

O Lord our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have fought the good fight.

I have completed the course.

I have kept the faith.

And now I am being poured out

like an offering,

and the time for my departure is near.

What lies ahead

is to receive

the crown of righteousness,

which the Lord, the righteous judge,

will present to me

on that day,

alongside all who have

received the Lord's forgiveness,

and look with joy

for the day

of the Lord's appearing.

Having called me

to proclaim the good news

to all nations,

the Lord has stood by me,

rescued me,

and strengthened me;

and the Lord will surely continue

to protect me from every assault,

and bring me safely

to the heavenly kingdom.

To the Lord

be glory for ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 18.9-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus

were some who had great confidence

in their own righteousness,

and regarded others

with contempt.

Jesus told them

this parable.

'Two men

went up to the temple

to pray.

One was a Pharisee;

the other

was a collector

of the Roman taxes.

The Pharisee

stood confidently,

and said: "O God, I thank you

that I am not like

all the other people -

thieves, liars, and adulterers -

or even that tax collector!

I fast twice a week!

I give a tenth of all my income to the temple!"

But the tax collector

stayed back,

at a distance,

and would not even

look up to heaven,

but, with his hand on his heart,

said, "God, have mercy on me,

a sinner."

I tell you,

it was the tax collector,

not the Pharisee, who

returned home

righteous

in the sight of God.

For those who

place themselves above others

will be brought down.

But those who choose

to be humble

will be lifted up.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER*Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**Fourth Sunday before Advent**All Saints Sunday***FIRST READING – Isaiah 25.6-9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast

of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice,

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy,

to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters,

we give thanks to God

for your continuing growth

both in faith

and in love for one another.

We gladly tell others

in all the churches

about your faith

that remains steadfast

in the face of so many

hardships and persecutions.

And we always pray for you,

that God will strengthen you

in all your works of faith,

as you seek to fulfil your calling,

and rejoice in all that is good.

And so may the name of our Lord Jesus

be glorified in you,

and may you be glorified in him,

by the grace of God

and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 19.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus was passing through Jericho

on his way to Jerusalem.

Zacchaeus, a wealthy

chief tax-collector,

could not see over the crowds

to see who Jesus was.

So he ran ahead

and climbed into a tree

on the route that Jesus was following.

When Jesus saw him there,

he said, 'Zacchaeus,

come down at once,

for I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus

came down quickly

from the tree,

and welcomed Jesus

into his home.

Those who saw this

began to complain,

saying that Jesus

had gone to be the guest

of someone

completely unworthy.

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus,

'My Lord,

half of all my possessions

I will give to the poor.

And if I have cheated anyone of anything,

I will pay it back

four times over.'

And Jesus said, 'Today,

salvation has come to this house.

For Zacchaeus also

is a child of Abraham.

And the Son of Man came

to seek out

and rescue

the lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**Third Sunday before Advent**Remembrance Sunday***FIRST READING – Job 19.23-27a**

A reading from the book of Job.

Let this be written down,
 recorded in a book,
 and engraved in stone:
 'I know that my Redeemer lives;
 and the day will come
 when my Redeemer
 will stand upon the earth.

And I know
 that when the suffering
 of this present age
 is ended,
 with my own eyes
 I shall see God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 2 Thessalonians 2.16 - 3.5A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

God our Father,
 and our Lord Jesus Christ,
 in their great love for us,
 have always given us
 courage
 and joyful confidence
 for the future.

May they continue
 to strengthen you
 in every good word
 that you speak,
 and in every good work
 that you do.

And finally I ask you,
 my brothers and sisters,
 to pray for us.

Pray
 that the word of the Lord
 may continue to spread,
 and be glorified everywhere,
 just as it is
 amongst you.

Pray also
 that we may be protected
 from any who would do us harm;
 for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful.

And we are confident
 that as you continue
 in all

that we taught you,
 the Lord will strengthen you,
 and protect you from all harm,
 and lead you on
 in the love of God,
 and in faithfulness to Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 19.41-48Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus approached Jerusalem,
 surrounded
 by the crowds.

And when he saw the city,
 he wept, and said,

'O Jerusalem,
 if only
 you had seen
 and understood
 the way of peace!

But the day will come
 when your enemies
 will surround you on every side!

They will crush you
 to the ground -

you,
 and your children within you!

Not one stone
 will be left

upon another;
 because you did not recognise
 that the day would come
 when God
 would call you to account.'

When Jesus entered the city,
 and entered

the temple courtyard,
 he began to drive out

those who were trading there,
 saying to them, 'The scripture says
 "My house shall be a house of prayer" -
 but you have made it
 a den of thieves!'

Then, every day,
 he was teaching
 in the temple.

And the chief priests,
 the teachers of the law,
 and other

leaders of the people,
 were looking
 for a way to destroy him.

But they could find nothing
 that they could do,

because the people were eager
 to hear
 his every word.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Sunday before Advent*

FIRST READING – *Malachi 4.1-2a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

The day is coming, says the Lord,

when the arrogant,

and all evildoers,

will be burned up

like stubble.

Neither root nor branch

will remain.

But on those who honour my name,

the dawn will break,

the sun will rise -

the sun of righteousness -

and there will be healing

in its light.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – *2 Thessalonians 3.7-13*

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

We were not idle

when we were with you.

We did not

accept food from you

without paying for it.

Indeed we worked night and day,

so that we would not

be a burden

to any of you.

We could

have asked you

to support us.

But we preferred

to set an example

for you to follow.

Even while we were with you,

we were making it a rule

that those who will not work

should not eat!

And yet we hear

that some amongst you

are being

both idle

and

disruptive -

not doing any work, and

disrupting

the work of others!

Our instruction to any in that situation -

in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ -

is to work quietly,

and earn the bread that you eat.

And for all of you, my brothers and sisters, I say:

do not grow weary

in always

doing good.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 21.5-19*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The disciples

were admiring the temple,

with its fine stone-work,

and its many offerings

and gifts.

Jesus said, 'The day will come

when all of this

will be torn down.

Not one stone

will be left

upon another.'

The disciples asked Jesus, 'When will this happen?

And what will be the sign

that these things

are about to take place?'

Jesus said, 'Do not be misled.

Many will come

claiming

that the time is near,

even claiming

to speak in my name.

Do not follow them.

And when you hear of wars and rebellions,

do not be afraid.

All these things must happen,

but they do not mean

that the end is near.

Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be earthquakes,

famines, and plagues.

There will be

terrifying sights

in the sky.

Even before all this,

they will persecute you.

They will arrest you,

and hand you over

to courts, and prisons,

and to kings, and governors,

because of my name.

And there,

you will be my witnesses.

Do not worry

in advance

about what you will say,

for I will give you words, and a wisdom,

that no one

will be able

to refute, or contradict.

You will be betrayed

by parents, brothers, and friends;

some of you will be put to death.

But even when you are hated by all

because of my name,

you will come to no harm.

And in your endurance,

you will find life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Sunday before Advent

Christ the King

FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 5.1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The elders of the tribes of Israel
came to David at Hebron,
and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood.
And even while Saul has been king over us,
you have been the one who has led us.
And we know that the Lord has spoken to you,
declaring that you will be
the shepherd and leader of Israel.'
So David made a covenant
with the elders of Israel,
in the presence of the Lord, at Hebron.
And there, the elders
anointed David
to be king over Israel.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Colossians 1.12-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ, and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things, in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
So let us give thanks
to God the Father, who has
rescued us,
from the power of darkness,
to dwell, forgiven, with the saints, in light,
in the kingdom
of his beloved Son.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 23.33-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

When they came to the place
called The Skull,
they crucified Jesus there,
with the criminals,
one on his right, and one on his left.
And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them;
for they do not know
what they are doing.'
And they divided his clothing
between them.
And the people stood by,
watching.
The inscription above him
read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'
The soldiers taunted him,
saying, 'If you are
the King of the Jews,
save yourself!'
And they offered him bitter wine.
The religious leaders also mocked him,
saying, 'He saved others;
let him save himself,
if he is the Messiah,
God's chosen one!'
One of the criminals
crucified alongside him
also mocked him,
saying, 'If you are the Messiah,
save yourself - and us!'
But the other criminal
said to him, 'Have you
no fear of God?
We are being
punished for our crimes,
but this man
has done
no wrong.'
Then he said, 'Jesus,
remember me,
when you
come into your kingdom.'
Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you,
today
you will be with me
in Paradise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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