

The Weekday Readings  
of the  
Coptic Rite

The Weekday Readings of the Coptic Rite

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# ANNUAL TIME

## September or [ ccj i

August 29 (30) / [ ccj i 1

Joyful Tune  
The Feast of Nairouz  
St. Bartholomew the Apostle  
St. Militeus, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 95:1-2

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord, all the earth;  
sing to the Lord, bless His Name;  
proclaim His salvation from day to day.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 13:44-52

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field. When a man found it, he hid it again. In his joy, he then goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field!

The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a man who is a merchant seeking fine pearls. Having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea which gathered fish of every kind. When the net was filled, people drew it up on the beach. They sat down and

gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. This is how it will be in the end of the age. The angels will come forth and separate the wicked from the righteous, and they will cast them into the furnace of fire where there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth."

Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?"

They answered him, "Yes, Lord."

He said to them, "Therefore, every scribe who has been made a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings

out of his storeroom new and old things." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 97:1

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing a new song to the Lord,  
for the Lord has done wondrous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm revived Him.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 2:18-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and they came to ask him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?"

Jesus told them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast! But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then, they

will they fast in that day. No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old garment, or else the patch shrinks and tears away from the old, and a worse hole is made. No one puts new wine into old wineskins, or else the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will pour out and the skins will be destroyed! Instead, they put new wine into fresh wineskins." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have

something to answer to those who boast in appearances—not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one died for all, therefore all have died.

He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new! But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and who gave to us the ministry of reconciliation. What I mean is that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not imputing sins, but having entrusted us with the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ: it is as if God was making [his] supplication through us: we beg you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God! God made him who knew no sin to become sin for our sake; so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

Since we are God's fellow-workers, we also entreat you not receive his grace in vain, for he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,  
in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

We have spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, and our heart is open wide. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us! In return, I speak to you as to my children: be open [to what we have to say].

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed

from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 17:16-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people

that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, "What is this babbler trying to say?"

Others suggested, "He seems to be advocating foreign deities,"



because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] 'the resurrection'.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean." Now, all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, "Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times

and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live, and move, and have our being!' As some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead."

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again on this matter."

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 64:12; 80:2

*A Psalm of David.*

You will bless the crown of the year with Your goodness,  
and the fields will be full of fat stock.

Rejoice in God our helper;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:14-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and news about him spread through all the surrounding area. He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaias was handed to him. He opened the book, and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to  
preach Good News to the poor.

He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim release to the captives,  
recovering of sight to the blind,  
to deliver those who are crushed,  
and to proclaim the acceptable  
year of the Lord.

He closed the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

All testified about him and marveled at the gracious words which came out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "With doubt, you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard was done at Capernaum, do also here in your hometown.'" He continued, "Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the land. Elias was sent to none of them,

except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian."

As they heard these things, all were filled with wrath in the syna-

gogue. They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to throw him off the cliff. But he, passing through their midst, went his way. *Glory be to God forever.*

August 30 (31) / [ ccj i 2

Joyful Tune  
Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist  
St. Dasya the Soldier and Martyr

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 51:10a,11b

*A Psalm of David.*

But I am like a fruitful olive tree  
in the house of God;  
I will wait on Your Name,  
for it is good in the sight of Your saints.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 14:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus, and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist! He is risen from the dead! That is why these powers work in him." As it is, Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John

had told him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Even though Herod desired to have John put to death, he feared the crowds because they considered him to be a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, Herodias' daughter danced among them and pleased Herod, so much that he promised with an oath to give her

whatever she would ask. She, prompted by her mother, said, "Give me here, on a platter, the head of John the Baptist."

The king was grieved, but for the sake of his oaths and because of those who sat at the table with him, he commanded that it be brought.

Herod gave orders and had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought on a platter, given to the young woman, and she brought it to her mother. John's disciples came, took the body, and buried it; and they went and told Jesus. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 91:11,15,16a

*A Psalm of David.*

You give me the strength of a rhinoceros,  
and finest oil to refresh my old age.  
They will still bear fruit in a ripe old age,  
and will be prospering  
so as to proclaim, "the Lord my God is upright."  
*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 9:7-12a

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Jesus. He was very perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead. Some said that Elias had appeared, and others that one of the old prophets had risen again. Herod said, "I have beheaded John, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he desired to see Jesus.

When they returned, the apostles told him what things they had done.

Then, Jesus took them with him and they withdrew to a deserted place [which was part] of a city called Bethsaida.

But the crowd perceived this and followed him. Jesus welcomed them, spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and cured those who needed healing. [It was] late in the afternoon. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute,

afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:9-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the

prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how

the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to

one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### 12:1-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter as well. (This was during the days of unleavened bread). After arresting Peter, he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. And so, Peter was kept

in the prison, but constant prayer was made by the Church to God for him. The same night, when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, "Stand up quickly!", and Peter's chains fell off

from his hands. The angel said to him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals!", and Peter did so. Then the angel said, "Put on your cloak, and follow me!" And Peter went out and followed the angel, but he did not realize that what was being done by the angel was real, thinking that he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, and it opened to them by itself. Having gone through, they went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

When Peter came to himself, he exclaimed, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent out his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 91:13,14

*A Psalm of David.*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,  
and will increase like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord  
will flourish in the courts of our God.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 6:14-29

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

King Herod heard this report, for Jesus' name had become well-known, and he said, "John the Baptizer has risen from the dead! This is why these powers are at work in him!" But others said, "He is Elias." Others said, "He is a prophet, or like one of the prophet!" But when he heard this,

Herod said, "This is John whom I beheaded. He has risen from the dead!" For Herod himself had given order that John be arrested and he had him chained in prison. This was for the sake of Herodias, the [former] wife of his brother Philip, for Herod had married her. John had said to

Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife!" Herodias became furious against John and desired to kill him, but she could not because Herod feared John. He knew that John was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he had heard John speak, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him.

An opportunity came when on his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his nobles, high officers, and for the leading figures of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and those sitting with him. The king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you!" He swore to her, "Whatever you shall ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom!"

She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" Herodias answered, "The head of John the Baptizer!"

At once, the girl hurried to the king and said, "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptizer on a platter."

The king was extremely sorry, but for the sake of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he did not wish to refuse her. Immediately, the king sent out a soldier of his guard and commanded to bring John's head. The soldier went off and beheaded John in the prison. He brought the Baptist's head on a platter and gave it to the girl and she gave it to her mother.

When his disciples heard this, they came, took John's body, and laid it in a tomb. *Glory be to God forever.*

August 31 (Sept 1) / Tho-out 3 through September 4 (5) / [ ccj i

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August 31 (September 1) / [ ccj i 3, see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Council held in Alexandria. St. Theodora of Alexandria. A great earthquake in 1112 A.D.

September 1 (2) / [ ccj i 4, see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Joyful tune. St. Macarius, the 69<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Verena.

September 2 (3) / [ ccj i 5, see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Joyful tune. St. Sophia the Martyr.

September 3 (4) / [ ccj i 6, see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Joyful tune. Isaias the Prophet. St. Basilissa the martyr.



September 4 (5) / [ ccj i 7, see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Joyful tune. St. Disocorus, the 25<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Rebecca and her children, the martyrs. St. Severian of Gabala.

## September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8

Joyful Tune  
St. Zachariah the Priest and Martyr  
Moses the Archprophet  
St. Diomedes the Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

#### Psalm 104:14-15

*A Psalm of David.*

He allowed no one to wrong them,  
and He rebuked kings on their account:  
"Do not touch My anointed ones,  
and do My prophets no harm."

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 11:37-51

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, as Jesus was speaking, a certain Pharisee asked him to dine with him. Jesus went in, and sat at the table. When the Pharisee saw it, he was astonished that Jesus had not first washed himself before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and platter, but your inside is full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside also make the inside? But as for what is inside you, be generous to the needy, and behold, all things will be

clean to you. But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, but you bypass justice and the love of God. You should have done these while not leaving the other undone. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like hidden graves, and people who walk over them do not [even] know it."

One of the experts in the law exclaimed, "Teacher, in saying this you insult us also."

Jesus said, "Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry, and you yourselves will not even lift one finger to help carry those burdens! Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. And so, you testify and consent to the works of your fathers! For they killed the prophets, and you build

their tombs. Therefore, the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles. Some of them they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.' Yes, I tell you that this generation will be charged with this blood. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 104:26, 27a, 45

*A Psalm of David.*

He sent His servant Moses,  
and Aaron whom He had chosen.  
He placed the words of His signs in them,  
that they might keep His statutes,  
and seek out His law.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 17:1-9

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and he brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. [There], he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elias appeared to them, talking with him.

Peter then said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you want,

let us make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

While Peter was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were very

afraid. Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up, and do not be afraid." Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the moun-

tain, Jesus gave them this order, "Do not tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 11:17-27

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, "In Isaac will your seed be called". Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his

bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to share ill-treatment with God's people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time. He considered the disgrace of the Anointed one greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on the reward. By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, but he persevered as if he was seeing him who is invisible.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:19-2:8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until

the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as

something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to

pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives. He delivered the righteous Lot who was very distressed by the lustful behavior of these wicked people; that righteous man was living among them and was tormented every day in his righteous soul when he saw and heard lawless deeds.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:21-29

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues." Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the

brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

"The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: 'You must be circumcised and keep the law', although they had no such commis-

sion from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and

to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 98:6, 7a

*A Psalm of David.*

Moses and Aaron are among His priests,  
and Samuel is among those who call on His Name;  
they called upon the Lord, and He heard them.  
He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 23:13-36

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land

to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, 'If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, 'If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the

gift that is placed on it, he is bound?' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but inside, they are full of greed and excess. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and platter, so that the outside may also become clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of]

impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore, you testify to yourselves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## September 6 (7) / Tho-out 9 through [ ccj i 15

September 6 (7) / [ ccj i 9, see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Joyful tune. St. Pisora the bishop and martyr.

September 7 (8) / [ ccj i 10, see January 25 (26) / h k W30, page 242.

Joyful tune. St. Matruna the martyr. Sts. Basin and her three children, the martyrs.  
September 8 (9) / [ ccj i 11, see April 22 / d Vfa cj i Y 27, page 281.

Joyful tune. St. Basilides the martyr.  
September 9 (10) / [ ccj i 12, see November 5 (6) / U \cf 9, page 93.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. Council of Ephesus.  
September 10 (11) / [ ccj i 13, see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Joyful tune. St. Metthias II, 90<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Miracle performed by St. Basil.  
September 11(12) / [ ccj i 14, see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Joyful tune. St. Agathon the stylite. Sts. Felix, Rigula, and Exuperius of the Theban Legion.  
September 12 (13) / [ ccj i 15, see December 27 (28) / h k W1, page 179.

Joyful tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Stephen the protomartyr.

## September 13 (14) / [ ccj i 16

Joyful Tune  
Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection  
Translocation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 83:4c, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

Your altars, O Lord of Hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;  
they will praise You forever and ever.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:1-10

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When Jesus had finished speaking all that he wanted the people to hear, he entered into Capernaum. There was the servant of a certain centurion, a man highly valued by his master	who was sick and at the point of death. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him presbyters of the Jews to ask him to come and save his servant. When they came to
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Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him saying, "This man deserves to have you do this because he loves our nation and [even] built our synagogue for us." Jesus went along with them, but as he was approaching the house, the centurion sent word to him by some friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. Therefore, I did not even think myself worthy to come to you. But [only] say the word and my servant will be healed. For I am also a man placed under authority, and I have

soldiers under my command. I tell this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him. Turning around, he said to the multitude who followed him, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel!" And the messengers, returning to the house, found that the servant who had been sick was [now] well. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 25:8, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, I love the beauty of Your house  
and the sanctuary where Your glory dwells.  
that I may hear the voice of praise  
and tell of all Your wonders.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 19:1-10

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was [about] to pass that way. When Jesus

came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!" He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. But when the people saw it, they all grumbled, saying, "He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!"



Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have wrongfully obtained money from anyone, I restore four times as much!"

Then Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 9:1-10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accom-

plishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:1-10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

[And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached to you.]\* There-

fore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil

speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

*\*This verse is found only in Coptic.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:31-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who

had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!" And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and

acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, 'Do not to delay in coming to help us!' So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having

put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 64:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,  
and a vow will be paid to You in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 16:13-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus then said to them, "But [you], who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven,

and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

September 14 (15) / [ ccj i 17

Palm Tune

Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Dedication of the Church of the Holy Cross)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 4:7b, 8b, 9b

*A Psalm of David.*

The light of Your presence has been signed upon us, O Lord.  
You have given... gladness to my heart,  
for You alone, O Lord, have made me to live in hope.  
*Alleluia.*

John 8:28-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am {he}. I do nothing of myself, but as my Father taught me, this is what I proclaim. He who sent me is with me. The Father has not left me alone because I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

About Abraham

As he spoke these things, many believed in him. Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him,

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!"

They answered him, "We are Abraham's seed and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?'"

Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I tell you; everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin! A slave does not live in the house forever, [but] a son remains forever.

If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed! I know that you are Abraham's seed, yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I say the things which I have seen with my Father; and you also do the things which you have seen with your father."

They answered him, "Our father is Abraham!"

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now, you

seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God! Abraham did not do this. You do the works of your father."

They replied to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality! We have one Father, God."

Therefore, Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came out and have come from God. Indeed, I have not come of myself, but he has sent me.

*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Processional Gospel Before the Sanctuary

Psalm 103:4, 137:1ab, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

Who makes spirits His Angels,  
and His ministers flames of fire.

I will confess You, O Lord, ... in the presence of the angels.

I will bow down toward Your holy temple.

*Alleluia.*

John 1:43-51

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

On the next day, being determined to go out into Galilee, Jesus met Philip and said to him, "Follow me!" Now, Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, have written: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!"

Nathanael asked him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see!"

As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, he said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!"

Jesus said to him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig

tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" He said to Philip, "Amen, amen, I tell you; hereafter, you will see heaven opened,

and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of the Theotokos

### Psalm 86:3, 5c, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God,  
for the Most High Himself founded her.  
How glad are all have their dwelling in you!  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 1:39-56

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

In those days, Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah. She entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped in my womb out of joy! Blessed is she who believed, for the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

Mary's canticle or Magnificat  
Mary said,  
My soul magnifies the Lord  
And my spirit has rejoiced in God  
my Savior,

for he has looked at the humble state of his handmaid.

For behold, from now on, all generations shall call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things for me, ~ And Holy is his Name!

His mercy is for generations of generations on those who fear him.

He has shown strength with his arm,

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

He has put down princes from their thrones.

And has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

He has sent the rich away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant,

So that he might remember mercy,  
As he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his seed forever.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, and then returned to her house. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of Archangel Gabriel

### Psalm 33:8, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

The Angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear Him,  
and He will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 1:26-38

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

Now, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Having come in, the angel said to her, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and you will call his name 'Jesus.' He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign

over the house of Jacob forever. And to his Kingdom there shall be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. Behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month [of her pregnancy] for her who was called barren. For everything spoken by God is possible."

Mary said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Be it to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of Archangel Michael

### Psalm 103: 20ab, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Bless the Lord, all you His angels,  
who are mighty in strength, who do His word.  
Bless the Lord, all His Hosts,  
His ministers who do His will.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 13:44-52

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field. When a man found it, he hid it again. In his joy, he then goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field!

The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a man who is a merchant seeking fine pearls. Having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea which gathered fish of every kind. When the net was filled, people drew it up on the beach. They sat down and gathered the good fish into contain-

ers, but the bad they threw away. This is how it will be in the end of the age. The angels will come forth and separate the wicked from the righteous, and they will cast them into the furnace of fire where there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth."

Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?"

They answered him, "Yes, Lord."

He said to them, "Therefore, every scribe who has been made a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new and old things." *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of St. Mark

Psalm 67:12, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord will give a word  
to those proclaiming the Gospel to a great company,  
The King of the forces of the Beloved  
will grant them to divide the spoils  
for the beauty of the house.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 10:1-12

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

After these things, the Lord also appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place where he was about to go. Jesus said to them, "The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your ways, [but] be aware that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, a wallet, or sandals. Do not greet anyone on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a follower of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in that house,

eating and drinking what they will give [you], for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever town you enter and if the people welcome you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you!' But if you enter into any town and people there do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the Kingdom of God has come near to you!' I tell you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for such a city. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of the Apostles

Psalm 18:4[b], 5

*A Psalm of David.*

[There is no speech nor language,  
in which their voices are not heard.  
Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:1-8

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

He called to himself his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. The names of the Twelve apostles are: first, Simon, who is called Peter; Andrew, his brother; James the son of Zebedee; John, his brother; Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Jesus sent these twelve out, and gave them this instruction, "Do not go among the Gentiles and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans. Rather, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, preach and say: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you have received, give freely as well. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before St. George (Or Any Martyr)

Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 21:12-19

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you

and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing

you before kings and governors for my Name's sake. It will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or

contradict. You will be handed over even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will acquire your lives. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Processional Gospel Before St. Anthony (Or Any Saint)

#### Psalm 67:36ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
But let the righteous be glad;  
let them rejoice in the presence of God;  
let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

#### Matthew 16:24-28

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. Indeed, what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his life? Or what will a

person give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then, he will render to everyone according to their deeds. Amen, I tell you: there are some standing here who will not have tasted death until they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Processional Gospel Before the North Door

#### Psalm 83:2, 3a

*A Psalm of David.*

How I love Your dwellings, O Lord of Hosts!  
My soul longs and faints for the courts of the Lord.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 13:22-30

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

Jesus was on his way through cities and villages, teaching and traveling onward to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are those who are saved [only] a few?"

Jesus replied, "Do your utmost to enter in by the narrow door! For I tell you that many will try to enter, but they will not be able. Once the master of the house has risen up and shut the door, you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying: 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But then, he will answer, 'I do not know you or where you come from!' Then you will start saying, 'We ate and drank in your

company and you taught in our streets!'

But the master will reply, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from! Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.' In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. People will come from the east, west, north, and south, and they will have a place in the Kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Processional Gospel Before the Baisen (Lakane)

### Psalm 28:3, 4a

*A Psalm of David.*

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The God of glory is thundering.

The Lord is upon many waters.

The voice of the Lord is strong.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 3:13-17

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

Then, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and [it is] you who come to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Allow it for now, for it is fitting that in this way, we should fulfill all

righteousness." Then John allowed Jesus [to be baptized]. After he had been baptized, Jesus immediately came out of the water and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming down on him. And behold, a voice from heaven said:

"This is my beloved Son, with *God forever.*  
whom I am well pleased!" *Glory be to*

## The Processional Gospel Before The South Door

### Psalm 117:19,20

*A Psalm of David.*

Open the gates of righteousness to me;  
I will enter by them and confess the Lord.  
This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous will enter through it.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 21:1-11

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

As they were approaching Jerusalem and came to Bethsphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples [ahead of the group]. He told them, "Go into the village that is opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them, and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately, he will let them go."

All this was done so what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Tell the daughter of Zion,  
behold, your King comes to you,  
humble, and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very great crowd spread their clothes on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Many people went before him and those who followed kept shouting, "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

When he had come into Jerusalem, the entire city was stirred up and people were saying, "Who is this?" And the multitude answered, "This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Processional Gospel Before the Icon of St. John the Baptist

Psalm 51:10ab, 11cd

*A Psalm of David.*

But I am like a fruitful olive tree  
in the house of God;  
I will wait on Your Name,  
for it is good in the sight of Your saints.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:28-35

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. His blessing be upon us all. Amen.*

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptizer; yet whoever is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just since they had been baptized with John's baptism. However, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose, not being baptized by him themselves.

But the Lord said, "to what, then, can I compare the people of this

generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and who call one another, saying: 'We played the pipes to you, and you did not dance! We mourned, and you did not weep!' For John the Baptizer came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard; a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet Wisdom is justified by all her children." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 59:6, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

You have given a signal to those who fear You,  
so they may escape from before the bow. (Pause)  
Save with Your right hand, and hear me,  
that Your beloved might be rescued.

*Alleluia.*

## John 12:26-36a

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Anyone who serves me must follow me! Where I am, there will my servant also be. The Father will honor anyone who serve me.

Now, my soul is troubled. What shall I say? 'Father, save me from this time?' But for this reason, I have come to this time. Father, glorify your Name!"

Then, there came a voice out of heaven, saying, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

At this, the multitude who stood by heard it, and they said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has not come for my sake, but for your sakes. Now, judgment is upon this

world! Now, the prince of this world will be cast out! And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [people] to myself." But he said this to indicate by what kind of death he should die. The multitude answered him, "We have heard out of the law that the Christ remains forever. How do you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?' Who is this Son of Man?"

Jesus therefore said to them, "The light is with you a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overtake you. Whoever walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Good News—not in wisdom of words, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying, but to us who are saved it is the power of God. As it is written:

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
I will bring the discernment of the  
discerning to nothing.*

Where is the wise? Where is the expert of the law? Where is the debater of this world? Has not God ridiculed the wisdom of this world? Since in God's wisdom, the world through its 'wisdom' did not know God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe. Jews ask for signs and Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ

crucified; a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks. However, to those who are called, (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, because God's 'foolishness' is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Consider your calling, brethren, that not many [among you] were wise according to the flesh, not many powerful, and not [many] of noble birth. Nevertheless, God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are 'wise'. [Yes], God chose the weak things of the

world in order to put to shame the things that are strong. God also chose the lowly things of the world, the things that are despised, and the things that are not, so that he might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh should boast before God. But by God's doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; so that, according as it is written, "He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord."

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but

do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example



so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we

might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

*\*or “bishop” or “episcopos”*

## The Praxis

### Acts 10:34-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses

of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 64:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,  
and prayer will be offered to You in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

*Alleluia.*

John 10:22-38

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, it was the Feast of the Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in Solomon's porch. The Jews therefore gathered around him and asked him, "How long will you hold us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's Name, these bear witness to me. But you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep, as I told you. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give eternal life to them; they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Again, the Jews picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus told them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of those do you stone me?"

The Jews answered him, "We do not stone you for a good work, but for blasphemy: because you, being a man, make yourself God."

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods?' If he called them gods, (those to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of him whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world, 'You blaspheme,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God?' If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may recognize and

believe that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." *Glory be to God forever.*

September 15 (16) / [ ccj i 18

Palm Tune  
Second Day of the Feast of the Cross  
St. Prophyrius the Martyr  
Commemoration of St. Stephen the priest, and St. Niketa the martyr

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 98:9, 5ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Exalt the Lord our God  
and worship at His holy mountain,  
for the Lord our God is holy.

Exalt the Lord our God,  
and fall down before His footstool.

*Alleluia.*

John 4:19-24

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship

what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 117:28ab, 16

*A Psalm of David.*

You are my God, and I will confess You;  
You are my God, and I will exalt You;  
the right hand of the Lord exalted me;  
the right hand of the Lord worked power.  
*Alleluia.*

### John 3:14-21

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has

already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Galatians 6:11-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

See with what large letters I write to you with my own hand! It is those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh who are trying to compel you to be circumcised; and it only so

that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they

may boast in your flesh. As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. In Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation {is significant}. To those who live by this rule, may there

be peace and mercy upon them, and on the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him

and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:8-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: "Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is 'the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.' There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!"

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained

men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name." They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 144:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

I will exalt You on high, my God and my King,  
and I will bless Your Name unto ages of ages.

I will bless you every day,  
and praise Your Name unto ages of ages.

*Alleluia.*

### John 6:35-46

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life! The one who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet, you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who is coming to me I will in no way reject. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but [to do] the will of the one who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me: that of all he has given me, I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and this one I will raise up on the last day."

At this, the Jews began to murmur concerning him, because he had said,

"I am the bread which came down out of heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'"

Therefore, Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and this one I will raise up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Therefore, everyone who hears from the Father and has learned comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God. He has seen the Father! *Glory be to God forever.*

## September 16 (17) / [ ccj i 19

Palm Tune

Third Day of the Feast of the Cross

St. Gregory the Armenian

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 44:7, 18b

*A Psalm of David.*

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

the sceptre of Your Kingdom is a sceptre of justice;

Therefore peoples will confess You forever and unto ages of ages.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:21-26

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

From that time, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the presbyters, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.

Peter then took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you!"

But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are

not setting your mind on the things of God but on the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. Indeed, what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his life? Or what will a person give in exchange for his life? *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 73:2cde, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

You have redeemed  
the sceptre of Your inheritance,  
this Mount Zion where You dwell.  
God is our eternal King;  
He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 8:34-9:1

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Indeed, whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. What does it profit if someone, to gain the whole world, loses his life? For what will someone give in exchange for his life? Whoever

will be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Colossians 2:6-19

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As you received Christ Jesus as the Lord, walk also in him, rooted and built up in him, established in the faith just as you were taught, overflowing from faith into thanksgiving.

Be careful not to let anyone rob you through philosophy and vain

deceit, according to human tradition and the basic things of the world, and not after Christ. For in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and in him who is the head of all principality and power, you are made full. In him, you were also circumcised with a

circumcision not made with hands, by casting off the sinful nature in the circumcision of Christ. You have been buried with him through baptism in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, but he made you alive with him by forgiving us all our trespasses and by wiping out the handwriting of ordinances which was against us. He removed it out of the way, nailing it to the cross, having exposed the principalities and powers, making a public display of them and triumphing over them.

Therefore, let no one judge you in matters of eating, drinking, or regarding a feast day, new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Let no one rob you of your prize by false humility and a religion of angels, dwelling on things which such a one has not seen, vainly puffed up by a carnal mind. Such a person is not holding firmly to the head, from whom the whole body, being supported and knit together through the joints and ligaments, grows with the growth given by God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:13-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to

us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads

to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the

evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you. He must remain in heaven until the times of restoration of all things, which God announced long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 60:3c, 4abc, 6

*A Psalm of David.*

You lifted me high on a rock.  
You guided me,  
for You became my hope,  
a tower of strength.  
For You, O God, hear my prayers;  
You give an inheritance  
to those who fear Your Name.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 14:25-35

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Great crowds were now traveling with him. He turned and said to them, "Anyone who comes to me and does not disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying: 'This man began to build and he was not able to finish!' Or what king, as he goes to encounter

another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with twenty thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Salt is good, but if it becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile and it is thrown out! Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## September 17 (18) / [ ccj i 20

See January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual tune. St Athanasius II, 28<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Melitina the virgin and martyr. St. Theopista the ascetic.

## September 18 (19) / [ ccj i 21

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of the Theotokos  
St. Cyprian the bishop and martyr  
St. Justina the martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

#### Psalm 63:11

*A Psalm of David.*

The righteous man will be glad in the Lord,  
and will hope in Him;  
and all the upright in heart will be praised.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 4:21-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a basket or under a bed? Is not it placed on a stand? For there is nothing hidden that may not be made manifest, and nothing was made secret that should not come to light. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!"

He also told them, "Pay attention to what you hear! With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to those who hear. For whoever has will receive even more, but to the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 69:6

*A Psalm of David.*

But I am poor and needy;  
help me, O God!  
You are my helper and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not delay!  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 3:22-27

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He is casting out demons by the [authority of the] prince of the demons!"

Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom

cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but has [come to] an end. But no one can enter into the house of a strong man to plunder it, unless he first binds the strong man. Then he will plunder his house. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Philippians 1:1-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ;

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God whenever I remember you, and I always pray with joy when I intercede on your behalf

because of your partnership in the furtherance of the Good News, even from the very first day until now. I am confident of this very thing: that God who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about you, because I have you in my heart and because you are all partakers with me of grace, both in

my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the Good News. For God is my witness: I long for all of you in the tender mercies of Christ Jesus!

I pray [especially] for this, that your love may overflow even more, with an increase of knowledge and all discernment. This way, you will be

able to discern what things are excellent, so that you may be sincere and without offense to the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:7-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher N. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother

[or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:11-17

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you

by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them

such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 15:10, 11ab

*A Psalm of David.*

For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
nor allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You made the ways of life known to me;  
You will fill me with gladness in Your presence.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 3:28-35

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Amen, all human sins will be forgiven, and all the blasphemies ever uttered; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin".[He spoke these words] because they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

His mother and his brothers came and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A large

group was sitting around him, and they told him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you."

He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother, and my sister, and mother." *Glory be to God forever.*



## September 19 (20) / [ ccj i 22 through September 22 (23) / [ ccj i 25

September 19 (20) / [ ccj i 22, see April 22 / d V f a c j i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. Sts. Cotylas and Axoua and the friend, Tata, the martyrs. St. Julian the martyr.

September 20 (21) / [ ccj i 23, see September 18 (19) / [ ccj i 21, page 53.

Annual tune. Sts. Eunapios and Andrews the martyrs. St. Thecla the martyr. The reopening of the Church of the Virgin in 1029 A.D.

September 21 (22) / [ ccj i 24, see December 27 (28) / h k W 1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Quadratus the Disciple. St. Gergory ascetic.

September 22 (23) / [ ccj i 25, see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Jonas the prophet. St. Maurice and his companions.

## September 23 (24) / [ ccj i 26

Annual Tune

Annunciation of the nativity of St. John the Baptist

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 9:12, 15ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,  
that I may proclaim all Your praises  
in the gates of daughter Zion.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 14:3-9

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

While Jesus was at Bethany, in the the table, a woman came with an  
house of Simon the leper, as he sat at alabaster jar of very expensive

perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar, and poured the oil over his head. But there were some who were upset and who said, "Why has this ointment been wasted? It could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." They grumbled against her, but Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for me. You always have

the poor with you, and whenever you want to, you can do them good; but you will not always have me! She has done what she could: she has anointed my body in advance for the burial. Amen, I tell you: wherever this Good News will be preached throughout the whole world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 101:20b, 21a, 22

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord looked from heaven upon the earth,  
to hear the groaning of the prisoners,  
to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion  
and His praise in Jerusalem.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 12:41-44

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting their money into the treasury. Many who were rich gave much. A poor widow came, and she put in two small coins, which amount to a quadrans coin. He called his disciples to

himself, and told them, "Amen, I tell you that this poor widow gave more than all those [others] who are giving to the treasury. For they all gave out of their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 1:1-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, we received have grace and apostleship, for obedience of faith among all the nations, for his Name's sake. Among them, you are also called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I

may be blessed by the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift with the purpose that you may be established; that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. This is why there is so much eagerness on my part to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for

the Greek. For in the Gospel God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith."

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 1:1-18

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve

tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him. When temptations come, let no one say, "I am tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:2b-7

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was [still] in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. And God said to him, 'Leave your land and your relatives, and

come into a land which I will show you.' This is how Abraham came out of the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. From there, when his father was dead, God moved him into

this land, where you are now living. He gave Abraham no inheritance in this land, no, not so much as to set his foot on it. But God had promised that he and his descendants would possess this land, even when Abraham was still without child. God spoke in this way: that Abraham's descendants would live as aliens in a

foreign land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated for four hundred years. 'I will judge the nation to which they will be in bondage,' said God, 'and after that [time], will they come out and offer me divine service in this place.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 101:14, 17, 18a

*A Psalm of David.*

When You arise You will and have compassion on Zion,  
for it is the appointed time to have compassion on her,  
because the time has come;  
for the Lord will build up Zion,  
and He will appear in His glory,  
[For] He regarded the prayer of the humble.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 1:1-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us, even as those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning have delivered them to us. For this reason, it has seemed good to me also, after reviewing the course of all things accurately from the beginning, to write an ordered account to you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may

know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the days of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zacharias who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. Yet, they had no child because

Elizabeth was barren, and both were well advanced in years. Now, it came to pass that while Zacharias was performing his priestly office before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priest's office, that his lot was [drawn] to enter into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. Now, at the time of the incense offering, the whole multitude of the people was praying outside.

Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was startled when he saw the angel and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, because your petition has been heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord! He will drink no wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. He will bring back many of the children of Israel to the Lord, their God. He will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers

to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lord."

Zacharias said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years!"

The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel who stands near before God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

The people were waiting for Zacharias and wondering as he delayed in the sanctuary. When he came out, he could not speak to them and they understood that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He continued making signs to them and remained mute. When the days of his service were fulfilled, Zacharias returned to his house. After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she hid herself five months, saying: "The Lord has done this to me in the days when he looked at me, in order to take away my disgrace among men." *Glory be to God forever.*

## September 24 (25) / [ ccj i 27 through September 31 (Oct 1) /

### d V k e Y 3

September 24 (25) / [ ccj i 27, see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. St. Eustathios, his wife, and their two sons, the martyrs.

September 25 (26) / [ ccj i 28, see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sts. Apater and Eraee the martyrs.

September 26 (27) / [ ccj i 29, see January 25 (26) / h k V Y 30, page 242.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. St. Repsim and her companions, the virgins.

September 27 (28) / [ ccj i 30, see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. Miracle at the hand of St. Athanasius.

September 28 (29) / d V k e Y 1, see January 25 (26) / h k V Y 30, page 242

Annual tune. St. Anastasia the martyr.

September 30 (31) / d V k e Y 2, see June 27 / X e Z e 3, page 340.

Annual tune. The arrival of St. Severus of Antioch in Egypt.

September 31 (Oct 1) / d V k e Y 3, see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Simon II, the 51<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. John the soldier and martyr. Sts. Ursus and Victor of the Theoban Legion.

## October or d V k e Y

### October 1 (2) / d V k e Y 4 through October 8 (9) / d V k e Y 11

October 1(2) / d V k e Y 4 see March 9 / d V f a S c i e 13, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Bacchus, the friend of St. Sergius, the martyr.

October 2 (3) / d V k e Y 5 see November 13 (14) / U \ c f 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Paul the Patriarch of Constantinople.

October 3 (4) / d V k e Y 6 see January 25 (26) / h k V Y 30, page 242.

Annual tune. Hannah, the mother of Sammuell the prophet.

October 4 (5) / d V k e Y 7 see May 15 / d V R V b g 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Paul of Tamoah.

October 5 (6) / d V k e Y 8 see November 21 (22) / U \ c f 25, page 126.

Annual tune. St. Matra the elder and martyr. Abba Hor, Susanna and her children, and Abba Agathon the hermit, the martyrs.

October 6 (7) / d V k e Y 9 see November 13 (14) / U \ c f 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Eumenius the 7<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Eclipse of the sun in 958 A.M. St. Simon the bishop.

October 7 (8) / d V k e Y 10 see March 9 / d V f a S c i e 13, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Sertius, the friend of St. Bachus, the martyr.

October 8 (9) / d V k e Y 11 see June 27 / X e Z e 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. James the Patriarch of Antioch. St. Pelagia the virgin.



## October 9 (10) / dVkeY12

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of Archangel Michael  
St. Matthew the Evangelist  
St. Demetrius, the 12<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 21:23, 24ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I will declare Your Name to my Brethren;  
I will praise You in the midst of the Church.  
You who fear the Lord, praise Him;  
all you sons of Jacob, glorify Him.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 9:9-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As Jesus was passing by from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me", and the man got up and followed him. It so happened that as Jesus was sitting in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, "Why does your

teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he told them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 39:10, 11ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I have proclaimed righteousness  
in the great assembly.  
I will not restrain my lips;  
O Lord, You know [my truth].  
I have not hidden Your righteousness  
within my heart.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 2:13-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus went out again by the sea-side. The crowd came to him and he taught them. As he was passing by, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me!" And Levi arose and followed Jesus.

It then happened that Jesus was reclining at the table in Levi's house, and many tax collectors and sinners sat down with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many, and they

followed him. The scribes and the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why is it that he eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he replied to them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Ephesians 4:11-19

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of

Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we

may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. They are darkened in their understanding, cut off from God's life because of their ignorance and because of the hardening of their hearts. Having become hardened, such people gave themselves up to lust and they pursue what is impure with greed.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus

Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been an-

nounced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:12-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon's porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow

might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### 67:12, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord will give a word  
to those proclaiming the Gospel to a great company,  
The King of the forces of the Beloved  
will grant them to divide the spoils  
for the beauty of the house.

*Alleluia.*

## Luke 5:27-32

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office. He said to him, "Follow me!"

Levi left everything, got up and began to follow Jesus. He made a great feast for him in his house. There was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining with

them. The scribes and the Pharisees murmured against Jesus' disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." *Glory be to God forever.*

## October 10 (11) / d V k e Y 13

See May 15 / d V R V b g 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Zachariah the ascetic.

## October 11 (12) / d V k e Y 14

Annual Tune  
St. Philip the Deacon and Martyr

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

### Psalm 67:36ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
But let the righteous be glad;  
let them rejoice in the presence of God;  
let them exult with delight and gladness.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 10:1-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, the Lord also appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place where he was about to go. Jesus said to them, "The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your ways, [but] be aware that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, a wallet, or sandals. Do not greet anyone on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a follower of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in that house, eating and drinking what they will give [you], for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever town you enter and if the people welcome you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you!' But if you enter into any town and people there do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the

Kingdom of God has come near to you!' I tell you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for such a city.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But in the judgment, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. You, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to hades! Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!" Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 144:10b, 11, 12a

*A Psalm of David.*

Your saints [will] bless You.

They will tell of the glory of Your Kingdom,  
and they will speak of Your power,

that all the sons of men may know Your power.

*Alleluia.*

John 1:43-51

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

On the next day, being determined to go out into Galilee, Jesus met Philip and said to him, "Follow me!" Now, Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, have written: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!"

Nathanael asked him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see!"

As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, he said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!"

Jesus said to him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" He said to Philip, "Amen, amen, I tell you; hereafter, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Titus 2:11-3:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has

taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we

should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be

foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:5-13a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater

because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son



of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:26-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert."

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join yourself to this chariot."

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?"

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a place with] some water, and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?"

Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!' He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see

him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 31:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not take into account,  
and in whose mouth there is no deceit.

*Alleluia.*

### John 3:1-21

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, there was one of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night, and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God because no one can perform the signs which you accomplish unless God is with him."

Jesus answered him, "Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born anew, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus asked him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born [anew]?"

Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of

the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?"

Jesus replied and said, "You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one

who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does

not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God." *Glory be to God forever.*

## October 12 (13) / d V k e Y 15 through October 18 (19) / d V k e Y 21

October 12 (13) / d V k e Y 15 see July 14 / X e Z e 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Pantilemon the physician and martyr.

October 13 (14) / d V k e Y 16 see November 25 (26) / U \ c f 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Agathon the 39<sup>th</sup> patriarch of Alexandria.

October 14 (15) / d V k e Y 17 see June 27 / X e Z e 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Dioscorus II the 31<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

October 15 (16) / d V k e Y 18 see November 25 (26) / U \ c f 29, page 143.

Annual tune. Assembly of the Council of Antioch against Paul of Samosta. St. Theophilus the 23<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

October 16 (17) / d V k e Y 19 see July 14 / X e Z e 20, page 361.

Annual tune. Council of Antioch against Paul of Samosata. St. Theophilus and his wife.

October 17 (18) / d V k e Y 20 see January 27 (28) / \ R J f 2, page 247.

Annual tune. St. John colobus.

October 18 (19) / d V k e Y 21 see September 5 (6) / [ c c j i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. Translocation of the relics of Lazarus to Constantinople. Joel the prophet. St. Tegi.

## October 19 (20) / d V k e Y 22

Annual Tune  
St. Luke the Evangelist

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 104:1, 2a, 3a

*A Psalm of David.*

Confess the Lord and call on His Name;  
tell of His works among the nations.

Sing to Him and praise Him;  
recount all His wonderful works.

Glory in His holy Name.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:1-6

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Calling his twelve disciples together, Jesus gave them power and authority over all demons, and [power] to cure diseases. He sent them forth to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Jesus said to them, "Do not take anything for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever

house you enter, stay there until you leave from there. Wherever people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them."

They departed and went throughout the villages, preaching the Good News, and healing everywhere. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 67:25a, first half of b, 27

*A Psalm of David.*

Your processions were seen, O God,  
the processions of my God.

Bless God in the churches,  
[bless] the Lord from the fountains of Israel!

*Alleluia.*

## Luke 17:5-10

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The apostles also said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

The Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, 'Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,' and it would obey you!"

But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or shepherding, that will say when that servant returns from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at the table.' Instead,

will you not tell him, 'Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me while I eat and drink. Afterwards, you may eat and drink'? Does the master thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not! So you also, when you have done all those things which you are commanded [to do], say, 'We are unworthy servants, we have [only] done our duty!'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Colossians 4:2-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Persevere in prayer, even in vigils of thanksgiving. Pray for us as well, so that God may open to us a door for the word, [an opportunity] to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray also that I may reveal it as clearly as I should. Live wisely before those who are 'outside', and make the most of your time. Let your speech always be pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to properly answer those who have questions.

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may

know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, "if he comes to you, receive him"), and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect

and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in

the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, "Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it."

Here is my greeting: Paul, with my own hand! Remember my chains... Grace be with you! Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer

for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the

spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 1:1-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 95:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing to the Lord, praise His Name;  
proclaim His salvation from day to day;  
declare His glory among the nations,  
His wonders among all peoples.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 10:1-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, the Lord also appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place where he was about to go. Jesus said to them, "The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your ways, [but] be aware that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, a wallet, or sandals. Do not greet anyone on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a follower of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in that house, eating and drinking what they will give [you], for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever town you enter and if the people welcome you, eat

whatever is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you!' But if you enter into any town and people there do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the Kingdom of God has come near to you!' I tell you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for such a city.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But in the judgment, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. You, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought



down to hades! Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!"

Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from

heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

## October 20 (21) / d V k e Y 23 through October 23 (24) / d V k e Y 26

October 20 (21) / d V k e Y 23 see November 24 (25) / U \ c f 28, page 137.

Annual Tune. St. Joseph the 52<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Dionisius of Corinth.

October 21 (22) / d V k e Y 24 see January 17 (18) / h k V Y 22, page 231.

Annual Tune. Sts. Paul, Longinus, and Zena the martyrs. Abba Hilarion the ascetic.

October 22 (23) / d V k e Y 25 see May 15 / d V R V b g 20, page 305.

Annual Tune. Sts. Apollo and Apip. Consecration of the Church of St. Julian el-Akfahsee.

October 23 (24) / d V k e Y 26 see December 27 (28) / h k V Y 1, page 179.

Annual Tune. St. Timon the Disciple and martyrs. Commemoration of the seven martyrs on the mount of St. Anthony.

## October 24 (25) / d V k e Y 27

Annual Tune. Abba Macarius the bishop of Tkoou, the martyr.

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

#### Psalm 111:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord;  
he will greatly delight in His commandments.  
His seed will be mighty on earth;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 25:14-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own servants and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately, the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. In the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. But the servant who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came

forward and brought another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

The lord said to the servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

The lord said to this servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!' *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

131:1, 2, 9, 10a

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, remember David  
and all his meekness,  
how he swore to the Lord,  
and vowed to the God of Jacob.  
Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;  
Your saints will rejoice  
for Your servant David's sake.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 6:17-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate  
you,*

*and when they shall exclude and  
mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for  
the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in  
heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to  
the prophets. Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Hebrews 11:17-31

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, "In Isaac will your seed be called". Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's and worshiped, leaning on the top of his

staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to share ill-treatment with God's people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time. He considered the

disgrace of the Anointed one greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on the reward. By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, but he persevered as if he was seeing him who is invisible. By faith, he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch them. By faith, they passed through the Red

Sea as on dry land and when the Egyptians tried to do likewise, they were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient because she had received the spies in peace.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him. When temptations come, let no one say, "I am tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of

lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:11-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them

such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 1:1

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is the man

who has not walked in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of the pestilent.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 4:23-5:16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people. His fame spread into all Syria, and they brought him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, people possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them. Great crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the mountain and when he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to speak and to teach them, saying:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,*

*for they shall see God. ~*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of  
God. ~*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people revile  
you, persecute you,  
and say all kinds of evil against you  
falsely for my sake.*

*Rejoice, and be extremely glad, for  
great is your reward in heaven.*

For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is then good for nothing, only to be cast out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world! A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp and place it under a measuring basket, but on a stand. And so it shines to all who are in the house. Likewise, let your light shine before all, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

## October 25 (26) / d V k e Y 28 through October 31 (November 1) /

### U \cf 4

October 25 (26) / d V k e Y 28 see November 21 (22) / U \cf 25, page 126.

Annual tune. Sts. Marcian and Mercurius the martyrs.

October 26 (27) / d V k e Y 29 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection. St. Demetrius of Thessalonica the martyr.

October 27 (28) / d V k e Y 30 see April 25 / d V f a c j i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. Consecration of the Church of St. Mark, and the appearance of his head. St. Abraham the solitary.

October 28 (29) / U \cf 1 see June 27 / X e Z e 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Celopas the disciple. Sts. Maximus, Numitius, Victor, and Philip, the martyrs.

October 29 (30) / U \cf 2 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Peter, the 27<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

October 30 (31) / U \cf 3 see November 5 (6) / U \cf 9, page 93.

Annual tune. St. Cyracus. St. Athanasius and his sister, Irene.

October 31 (November 1) / U \cf 4 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. Sts. John and James, the Persian bishops and martyrs. Sts. Epimachus and Adianus the martyrs.

## November or U \cf

### November 1 (2) / U \cf 5 through Novmeber 3 (4) / U \cf 7

Novmber 1 (2) / U \cf 5 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

Annual tune. The apparition of the head of St. Longinus. St. Timothy the martyr. Sts. Timothy and Maura. The translocation of the relics of St. Theodore the Prince of Shotb.

Novmber 2 (3) / U \cf 6 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Felix of Rome. Consecration of the Church of the Virgin in Meharraque monastery.

Novmber 3 (4) / U \cf 7 see April 18 / dVfa cj i Y23, page 276.

Annual tune. St George of Alexandria, the martyr. St. Nehroua of Fayoum, the martyr. Consecration of the Church of St. George of Cappodocia. St. Mena the bishop of Tamee.

### November 4 (5) / U \cf 8

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Four Incorporeeal Beasts

St. Pierius, the Deacon of the Catechetical School of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

#### Psalm 67:18

*A Psalm of David.*

The chariot of God is composed of myriads,  
thousands of thriving ones;  
[for the Lord will abide forever:]  
God is in them at Sinai, in his holy place.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 8:34-9:1

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus called the multitude to him-      them, "Whoever wants to come after  
self with his disciples and said to      me, let him deny himself, take up his



cross, and follow me. Indeed, whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. What does it profit if someone, to gain the whole world, loses his life? For what will someone give in exchange for his life? Whoever will be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful genera-

tion, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 32:6, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

By the Word of the Lord the heavens were established,  
and by the breath of His mouth, all their hosts,  
For He spoke, and they came to be;  
He commanded, and they were created.

*Alleluia.*

#### John 12:26-36a

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Anyone who serves me must follow me! Where I am, there will my servant also be. The Father will honor anyone who serve me.

Now, my soul is troubled. What shall I say? 'Father, save me from this time?' But for this reason, I have come to this time. Father, glorify your Name!"

Then, there came a voice out of heaven, saying, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

At this, the multitude who stood by heard it, and they said that it had

thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has not come for my sake, but for your sakes. Now, judgment is upon this world! Now, the prince of this world will be cast out! And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [people] to myself." But he said this to indicate by what kind of death he should die. The multitude answered him, "We have heard out of the law that the Christ remains forever. How do you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?' Who is this Son of Man?"

Jesus therefore said to them, "The light is with you a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overtake you. Whoever walks in the darkness does

not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 12:21b-13:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

So fearful was the appearance, that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the Church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which pleads better than Abel's [blood].

See that you do not refuse to listen to the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they rejected him who warned on the Earth, we will certainly not escape if we turn away from him who warns from heaven!

Then, his voice shook the earth, but now, he has promised with these words, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." The words "yet once more" indicates the removal of the things that are shaken since they are created things. But those things which are not shaken remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Keep on loving each other as brethren. Do not forget to be hospitable to strangers, for in doing so, some have welcomed angels without knowing it!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in

you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as

evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer

for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,

while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:2-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!"

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to

me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, 'What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.' This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and

saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words

by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 79:2c, 3, 4a

*A Psalm of David.*

[You] Who [are] enthroned upon the Cherubim, manifest Yourself!  
Raise up Your power before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
and come to save us!  
O God, bring us back.  
*Alleluia.*

### John 1:43-51

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

On the next day, being determined to go out into Galilee, Jesus met Philip and said to him, "Follow me!" Now, Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, have written: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!"

Nathanael asked him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see!"

As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, he said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!"

Jesus said to him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" He said to Philip, "Amen, amen, I tell you; hereafter, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## November 5 (6) / U \cf 9

Annual tune

St. Isaac, the 41<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria  
Assembly of the Holy Council of Nicaea

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 31:11, 6ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
and glory [in His holy Name].

Therefore, everyone who is holy will pray to You  
at an appropriate time.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 25:14-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own servants and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately, the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. In the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. But the servant who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants returned and settled

accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came forward and brought another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

The lord said to the servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

The lord said to this servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You

have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!' *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 111:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord;  
he will greatly delight in His commandments.  
His seed will be mighty on earth;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 6:17-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate you,*

*and when they shall exclude and mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to the prophets. Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 4:13-5:5

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For the promise to Abraham and the world was not through the law,  
to his seed that he should be heir of but through the righteousness of

faith. However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations." This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "the father of many nations", according to what had been spoken, "And so will your seed be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong

through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was "credited to him for righteousness." Now, it was not written that "it was accounted to him" for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered up for our sins, and was raised for our justification. Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through

the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for

you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the

grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:15-24

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified

God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch.



The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of

God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 18:5, 131:9, 10a

*A Psalm of David.*

Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.  
Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;  
Your saints will rejoice  
for Your servant David's sake.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:13-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus then said to them, "But [you], who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 6 (7) / U \cf 10 through Novmeber 7 (8) / U \cf 11

Novmber 6 (7) / U \cf 10 see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Sophia and the fifty virgins with her, the martyrs. Assembly of a holy council in Rome.

Novmber 7 (8) / U \cf 11 see September 23 (24) / [ ccj i 26, page 57.

Annual Tune. St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. St. Archilaus and St. Elisha the Hegoumen, the martyrs.

## November 8 (9) / U \cf 12

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of Archangel Michael

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 148:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise the Lord from the Heavens;  
praise Him in the highest!

Praise Him, all His angels;  
praise Him, all His hosts!

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 13:44-52

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field. When a man found it, he hid it again. In his joy, he then goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field!

The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a man who is a merchant seeking fine pearls. Having found one pearl of

great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea which gathered fish of every kind. When the net was filled, people drew it up on the beach. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. This

is how it will be in the end of the age. The angels will come forth and separate the wicked from the righteous, and they will cast them into the furnace of fire where there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth."

Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?"

They answered him, "Yes, Lord."

He said to them, "Therefore, every scribe who has been made a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new and old things." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 103:4, 3bc

*A Psalm of David.*

Who makes spirits His Angels,  
and His ministers flames of fire.

Who appoints the clouds for His going forth,  
Who walks on the wings of the winds.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 15:3-10

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

So Jesus told them this parable. "Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing! Coming home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, telling them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than

over ninety-nine righteous who need no repentance.

Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins and lost one, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and look hard until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying: 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma coin which I had lost!' Likewise, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 1:1-2:4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten you  
and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*"Let all the angels of God worship  
him."*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.*

*But of the Son he says:*

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages  
of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and  
hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your  
companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the  
foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your  
hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,*

*As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the foot-  
stool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we were taught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience

received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also

bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 1:1-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the

great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings. But the archangel Michael, when he contend with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring against the devil an evil-speaking judgment, but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" Yet, these people speak evil of things they know nothing about. What they do understand (by natural power, like the creatures without reason), these things will destroyed them. Woe to them! They have followed the path of Cain and they have thrown themselves after the error of Balaam for the sake of money, and they have perished in Korah's rebellion. These people are like hidden and rocky reefs

in your agape meals, when they feast with you. They are shepherds who feed themselves without fear, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own

shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved to the age.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 10:1-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, there was a certain man in Caesarea, whose named was Cornelius. He was a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man who feared God with his entire household. He gave generous alms to the people and always prayed to God. At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him, and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

Gazing at the angel, and being quite alarmed, Cornelius said, "What is it, Lord?"

The angel replied, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now, send men to Joppa, and get Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with a certain Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."

When the angel who had spoken to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among his

attendants. Having explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Now, on the next day, as they were on their way and approached the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a great sheet let down on the earth by four corners and descending to him. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat!"

But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean!"

Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, "What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean." This happened three times, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. As Peter was very

perplexed regarding the meaning of the vision, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius found where Simon's house was and stood at the gate. They called and asked whether Simon, who was called Peter, was lodging there. While Peter was

pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise and go downstairs! Accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 102:20ab, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Bless the Lord, all you His angels,  
who are mighty in strength, who do His word.

Bless the Lord, all His Hosts,  
His ministers who do His will.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 13:24-43

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He also presented them another parable in these words, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. While people slept, his enemy came and also sowed weed grass among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprang up and brought forth fruit, the weeds also appeared. The servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did this darnel come from?'

The man said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

The servants then asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them up?'

But the man replied, 'No, in fear that while you gather up the darnel weeds, you might also uproot the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the darnel weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Jesus also presented another parable to them, saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard

seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field. It is indeed smaller than all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the biggest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and find shelter in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the crowds; and without a parable, he did not speak to them, so that that had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*I will open my mouth in parables;*

*I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world.*

Then Jesus sent the multitudes away, and went into the house. His disciples came to him, saying, "Ex-

plain to us the parable of the grass weeds of the field."

He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seed are the children of the Kingdom and the darnel weeds are the children of the evil one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. As the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his Kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and those who do evil, and he will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Anyone who has ears should listen! *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 9 (10) / U \cf 13 through Novmeber 10 (11) / U \cf 14

Novmber 9 (10) / U \cf 13 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Timothy, the bishop of Ansena. Abba Zacharias, the 64<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

Novmber 10 (11) / U \cf 14 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual Tune. St. Martin, bishop of Tours



## November 11 (12) / U \cf 15

Annual Tune

St. Mena the Wonder-Worker and the Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:36ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.

But let the righteous be glad;

let them rejoice in the presence of God;

let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:16-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves! Therefore, be wise as serpents, and yet innocent as doves. But beware of men: they will hand you over to councils and in their synagogues, they will flog you. Yes, you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as witnesses to them and to the nations. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what you will say; what you will say will be given you in that hour. Indeed, it is not you who [shall] speak, but the

Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. Nevertheless, when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next. Amen, I tell you: you will not have finished going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light has dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 13:9-13, 33

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But be on your guard, for people will hand you over to the courts. You will be beaten in the synagogues, you will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. When they take you away and arrest you, do not worry in advance. Do not think ahead about what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his [own] child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved... [Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.]\* *Glory be to God forever.*

\*Vs 33 Found in the St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society Coptic CD, but lacking in Arabic lectionaries.

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 12:3-14

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Consider him who has endured such opposition from sinners, and you will not grow weary or faint in your souls. In your own battle against sin, you have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood. Have you

forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children:

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord,  
do not faint when you are reproved by him;*

*for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens,*

*and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of {our} spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to

them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if

one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:44-8:1a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*'Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord;*

*'or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?'*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the

prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Then, they shouted with a loud voice, blocking their ears, and rushed at him with one accord. So they threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called in prayer, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.  
The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:53-12:12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As he said these things to them, the scribes and Pharisees began a furious attack on him and tried to force answers from him on many questions. They were lying in wait for him and seeking to catch him in something he might say, in order to accuse him.

Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so much so that they trampled on each other. Jesus began to speak, first of all to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed; or hidden, that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light. What you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will warn you whom you should fear: fear the one who after he has killed, has [also] power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows.

I tell you, whoever confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me in the presence of men will be denied in the presence of the angels of God.

Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme

against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not be anxious about

how you will defend yourselves or what you will say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that same hour what you must say." *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 12 (13) / U \cf 16

See June 10 / d Vk bY 16, page 329.

Annual tune. The beginning of the Nativity Fast of Advent. The consecration of the Church of St. Onuphrius the pilgrim. St Bostus the bishop and martyr.

## November 13 (14) / U \cf 17

Annual Tune  
St. John Chrysostom

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 131: 9, 10a, 17b, 18b

*A Psalm of David.*

Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;

Your saints will rejoice

for Your servant David's sake.

I have prepared a lamp for my Christ,

[and] upon Him my holiness will blossom.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 4:23-5:16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people. His fame spread into all Syria, and they brought him all who were sick, afflicted with

various diseases and torments, people possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them. Great crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the mountain and when he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to speak and to teach them, saying:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of  
God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness' sake,*

*for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people revile  
you, persecute you,*

*and say all kinds of evil against you  
falsely for my sake.*

*Rejoice, and be extremely glad, for  
great is your reward in heaven.*

For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is then good for nothing, only to be cast out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world! A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp and place it under a measuring basket, but on a stand. And so it shines to all who are in the house. Likewise, let your light shine before all, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 109:4, 5a, 7a

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,

*"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek."*

The Lord at Your right hand,

therefore, He will raise His head high.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 6:17-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large

number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea

coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate  
you,*

*and when they shall exclude and  
mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for  
the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in  
heaven, for their fathers did the same  
thing to the prophets. Glory be to God  
forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:22

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in

righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.



As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing. Do your utmost to visit me soon, because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as well as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metal-worker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his

works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and heard by all the Gentiles. I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion and the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Greet Prisca, Aquila, and the house of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained at Corinth, but I left Trophimus at Miletus sick. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brethren. May the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Grace be with you. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly,

not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who

called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 20:17-38

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the presbyters of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. I served the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews. I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly

and from house to house. To both Jews and to Greek, I bore witness to repentance before God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, behold, I go to Jerusalem bound by the Spirit. I do not know what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. But these things do not count, and I do not hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race

with joy and [fulfill] the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch over yourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three

years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver, or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive!'"

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 72:23b, 24, 28

*A Psalm of David.*

You seized my right hand.  
You guided me with Your counsel,  
and received me with glory.  
But for me, it is good to cling to God,  
to put my hope in the Lord,  
that I may declare all Your praises  
in the gates of the daughter of Zion.

*Alleluia.*

## John 10:1-16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

"Amen, amen, I tell you; he who does not enter by the gate into the sheep fold, but climbs up some other way is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will by no means follow a stranger but flee from him because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

Jesus therefore said to them again, "Amen, amen, I tell you; I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate! Anyone who

enters in by me will be saved, and go in and out, and will find pasture. The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that people may have life, and have it in abundance. I am the good shepherd! The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The one who is a hired hand, not a shepherd, and who does not own the sheep, leaves the sheep and flees when he sees the wolf coming. Then the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand and does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd! I know my own, and I am known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. And there will be one flock - one shepherd. *Glory be to God forever.*

November 14 (15) / U \cf 18 through November 17 (18) / U \cf

## 21

November 14 (15) / U \cf 18 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Annual tune. Sts. Arases and Junia the martyrs. St. Philip the Apostle and martyr.

November 15 (16) / U \cf 19 see March 9 / dVfaSci e 13, page 262.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus. The commemoration of the St. Bartholomew's preaching in the oasis.

November 16 (17) / U \cf 20 see April 25 / d Vf a cj i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. St. Ananus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The consecration of the Church of St. Theodoros of Shatb and St. Theodoros Meshreky.

November 17 (18) / U \cf 21 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Cosmos, the 54<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Gregory the Wonder-Worker. Sts. /Alphaeius, Zachaeus, Romanus, John, Thomas, and Victor, the martyrs.

## November 18 (19) / U \cf 22

Annual Tune

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, their brothers and their mother, the martyrs.

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 4:4, 7b, 8a

*A Psalm of David.*

Know that the Lord made His Holy One wondrous;  
the Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

The light of Your presence has been signed upon us, O Lord,  
You have given...gladness to my heart.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:24-33

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! Therefore, do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and nothing hidden that will

not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who [can] kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Not one of them falls on the ground apart from your Father's will, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than

many sparrows! Whoever confesses me before men I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 112:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise the Lord, O you children!

Praise the Name of the Lord.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord  
from now and forevermore.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 8:34-9:1

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Indeed, whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. What does it profit if someone, to gain the whole world, loses his life? For what will someone give in exchange for his life? Whoever

will be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 8:14-27

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did

not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received

the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors

in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints [are always in accordance with God.]\*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

*\*[] excluded in lectionary.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-

giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:11-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them

such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 65:12bc, 13, 14a

*A Psalm of David.*

WSe passed through fire and water,  
and You brought us out to revival.

I will enter Your house with whole burnt offerings;

I will pay You my vows,  
which my lips uttered.

*Alleluia.*



## Luke 21:12-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my Name's sake. It will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and

wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or contradict. You will be handed over even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will acquire your lives. *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 19 (20) / U \cf 23

See November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Cornelius the Centurion. Consecration of the Church of St. Marina.

## November 20 (21) / U \cf 24

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of the Twenty-Four Presbyters

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

### Psalm 96:7c, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

Worship [God], all His angels!  
Zion heard and was glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced  
because of Your judgments, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 11:25-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, Jesus exclaimed, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the learned and intelligent, and revealed them to infants! Yes, Father, this was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except

the Son and the one to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Indeed, my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 137:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,  
and I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,  
for You heard the words of my mouth.  
I will bow down toward Your holy temple.  
*Alleluia.*

#### Matthew 12:1-8

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, on the Sabbath day, Jesus went through grain fields. Being hungry, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain and to eat them. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Behold, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

But Jesus replied, "Have not you read what David did, when he and those who were with him were

hungry? He entered into the house of God and ate the showbread, which it was not lawful for him and those with him to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law, that on the Sabbath day, the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and yet remain without guilt? But I tell you that someone greater than the temple is here! If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not

sacrifice,' you would not have  
condemned the innocent. For the Son

of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." *Glory  
be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Presbyters who rule well should be accounted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in preaching and teaching. As the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Do not receive an accusation against a presbyter, except at the word of two or three witnesses. Reprove those who have sinned in the sight of all, so that the others may also be in fear. I command you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels: observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay your hands hastily on anyone and do not be a participant in someone else's sins. Keep yourself pure. Do not drink only water but use a little wine for

your stomach and because of your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious long before they come to judgment while others are discovered only later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Those who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of all honor, so that God's Name and our doctrine may not be brought into disrepute. Slaves whose masters are believers should not despise them because they are brethren. Rather, they should them serve them because those who have a share in the benefit [of their work] are believing and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be

shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over

those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings.

But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:6-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows

the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that

we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are."

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and

Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 137:9, 10a, 17b, 18b

*A Psalm of David.*

Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;

Your saints will rejoice

for Your servant David's sake,

I have prepared a lamp for my Christ,

[and] upon Him my holiness will blossom.

*Alleluia.*

## John 1:1-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was {what} God {was}. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, nothing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. John came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but [he was sent] to bear witness to the light. The true light who

enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world had come into existence through him, and the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his Name. They were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Logos became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We beheld his glory, glory as a Father's uniquely-

begotten son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him; he cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before

me.'" From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 21 (22) / U \cf 25

Annual Tune  
St. Philopater Mercurius

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 17:35, 40

*A Psalm of David.*

[You] train my hands for war;  
and You made my arms like a bronze bow.  
For You have girded me with strength for battle,  
and have subdued under me all who rose against me.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 8:5-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When Jesus came into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking and saying, "Lord, my servant lies in the house paralyzed, grievously tormented." Jesus answered, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof! Only say the word and my servant shall be healed. For I am also a man under authority, having soldiers under my own authority. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and if I tell

another, 'Come,' he comes. Or if I tell my servant, 'Do this,' he does it!"

When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed, "Amen, I tell you that I have never found so great a faith, not even in Israel! I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to the

centurion, "Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed." And his servant was healed in that hour. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 36:ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.

But let the righteous be glad;

let them rejoice in the presence of God;

let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 12:4-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will warn you whom you should fear: fear the one who after he has killed, has [also] power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows.

I tell you, whoever confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also

acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me in the presence of men will be denied in the presence of the angels of God.

Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that same hour what you must say." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience. Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, "His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is

worthless." Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did not reach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But "he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*



## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings

but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 12:25-13:12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod

the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of

God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, "You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!"

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 44:4, 5a

*A Psalm of David.*

Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One,  
in Your splendor and beauty.

Draw Your bow, and prosper, and reign.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 12:9-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Going from that place, he went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man with a withered hand. Looking for reason to accuse

Jesus, the Pharisees asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?"

Jesus replied, "Who among you, having one sheep, and if this one falls into a pit on the Sabbath day, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man compared to a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath day." Then he told the man, "Stretch out your hand." The man stretched it out, and it was restored whole, just like the other hand! But the Pharisees went out and began to conspire against him, [discussing] how they might destroy him. Jesus, perceiving that, withdrew from that place. Many [people] followed him and he healed them all, commanding them not to reveal who he was, so that what was spoken through Isaias the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Behold, my servant whom I have chosen;*

*my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased:*

*I will put my Spirit on him.*

*He will proclaim justice to the nations.*

*He will not quarrel or shout;*

*No one will hear his voice in the streets.*

*He will not break a bruised reed,*

*He will not put out a smoking wick, until he leads justice to victory.*

*In his Name, the nationsb will hope.*

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, "Can this be the son of David?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 22 (23) / U \cf 26

See November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sts. Velerian and Tiburcius, the martyrs. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

## November 23 (24) / U \cf 27

Annual Tune

St. James the Persian, the martyr

The consecration of the Church of St. Victor the martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 45:2, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

God is our refuge and strength,  
our helper in afflictions that grievously befall us.

The Lord of Hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our protector.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 1:16-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Passing along by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further from there, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in a boat, mending the

nets. At once, he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and they began to follow him. They went into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath day, Jesus entered into the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching because he taught them as having authority, not as the scribes. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 145:1, 2a, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord all my life;  
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob;  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 4:18-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea as they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fish for people!"

Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on from

there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once, they left the boat and their father, and followed him. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 1:1-19

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will

of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different "Good News" - and there is no other "Good News"! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach

to you any "Good News" that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other "Good News" than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and

how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother'.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the

Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its

appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:13-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 77:5ab, 134:5

*A Psalm of David.*

He raised up a testimony in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
for I know that the Lord is great,  
and our Lord is above all the gods.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 10:35-45

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we will ask!"

He replied, "What do you want me to do for you?"

They answered, "Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand, and one at your left hand, in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They replied, "We are able!"

Jesus said to them, "You shall indeed drink the cup that I drink, and you shall be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with!

However, to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became upset with James and John.

Jesus called them, and told them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you! Whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever of you wants to become first among you shall be slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *Glory be to God forever.*



## November 24 (25) / U \cf 28

Annual Tune

St. Sarapamon the Bishop of Nokiu and the martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 88:20c, 21, 22a

*A Psalm of David.*

I have exalted one chosen from My people.

I have found David, My servant;

I have anointed him with My holy oil,  
for My hand will support him.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:34-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth! I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. Indeed, I came to set a son against his father, a daughter against her mother and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be members of his own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. The one who saves his life will lose it,

but whoever loses his life for my sake will obtain it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. Whoever receives a righteous person because of this person's righteousness will receive the reward of the righteous. Amen, I tell you that whoever gives one of these little ones even just a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple will in no way lose his reward." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 131:9, 10a, 17b, 18b

*A Psalm of David.*

Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;  
Your saints will rejoice  
for Your servant David's sake.  
I have prepared a lamp for my Christ,  
[and] upon Him my holiness will blossom.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:17-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate  
you,*

*and when they shall exclude and  
mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for  
the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in  
heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to  
the prophets. Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:18-8:13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

There is a cancellation of an earlier commandment because of its weakness and uselessness, because the law

made nothing perfect. And there is the introduction of a better hope through which we draw near to God.

Moreover, our Lord was not made priest without the taking of an oath (although others became priests without any oath). But with an oath, God says of him:

*The Lord swore and will not change his mind,*

*'You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'*

Because of this, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Many, indeed, were made priests [in the past] because they are prevented from continuing in office when they die. But he, because he lives forever, holds a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is also able to save to the very end those who draw near to God through him, because he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the

throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, "Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain." But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,*

*and with the house of Judah;*

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,*

*in the day when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of the land of Egypt;*

*for they did not continue in my covenant,  
and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

*After those days, says the Lord;  
I will put my laws into their mind,  
I will also write them on their heart.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.*

*They will not teach every man his neighbor,*

*and every man his brother, saying:  
'Know the Lord,'*

*for all will know me,  
from their least to their greatest.*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness;*

*I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.*

*By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John (all)

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing

from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to

see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:36-16:5

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!" Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple

named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presbyters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day. *The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 98:6, 7a

*A Psalm of David.*

Moses and Aaron are among His priests,  
and Samuel is among those who call on His Name;  
they called upon the Lord, and He heard them.  
He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud.  
*Alleluia.*

### John 16:20-33

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Amen, amen, I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy! When a woman gives birth, she has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she does not remember the anguish any more because of the joy that a human being is born into the world. Therefore, you now have sorrow, but I will see you again; and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you!

In that day you will ask me no [more] questions. Amen, amen, I tell you; whatever you may ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my Name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete! I have told you these things in figures of speech. But the time is

coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day, you will ask in my Name. And I do not tell you that I will pray to the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came forth from God. I came out from the Father, and I have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and return to the Father."

His disciples said to him, "Behold, now you speak plainly, not in figures of speech. Now we know that you know all things and we do not need for anyone to ask questions from you. By this we believe that you came forth from God."

Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the time is coming, yes, and it has now come, when you will be scattered, everyone

to his own place, and you will desert me. Yet, I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things so that in me you may

have peace. In the world you have distress, but rejoice! I have overcome the world." *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 25 (26) / U \cf 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection

St. Peter the High Priest and the Seal of the Martyrs

St. Clement the bishop of rome and the martyr.

St. Catherine of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 88:30, 37

*A Psalm of David.*

I will establish his seed unto the ages of ages  
and his throne as the days of heaven.

His seed will remain forever,  
and his throne as [long as] the sun before Me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:18-27

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Once, as Jesus was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the multitudes say that I am?"

They answered, "'John the Baptizer,' but others say, 'Elias,' and others, that one of the old prophets is risen again."

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "The Christ of God!"

But he warned them, and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the presbyters, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up."

Jesus said to all, "Anyone who desires to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for my sake will save

it. Indeed what profit is there if someone gains the whole world but loses or forfeits his own self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in

his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you the truth: There are some who stand here who will in no way taste of death, until they see the Kingdom of God." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 106:32, 41b, 42a

*A Psalm of David.*

Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people,  
and praise Him in the session of elders.

[For He has] made his families like a flock [of sheep],  
[that] the righteous will see it and be glad.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 8:22-29

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When he arrived at Bethsaida, people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand and brought him out of the village. He spit on his eyes, laid his hands on the man, and asked him if he saw anything.

The man looked up and said, "I see people! I see them like trees walking!"

Again, Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes who then looked [around] intently. His sight was then restored and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus

sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not enter into the village and do not tell anyone in the village."

Jesus went out with his disciples into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "John the Baptizer, and others say Elias, but others yet [say that you are] one of the prophets."

Jesus said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ!" *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 4:14-5:14

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for assistance in time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed for their sake in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for [their] sins. The high priest can deal gently with those who are ignorant and going astray since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for the sins for the people as well as for himself. Moreover, nobody assumes this honor by himself but one is called by God, just as Aaron was. Likewise, Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was God who said to him:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.*

As he says also in another place,

*You are a priest forever,*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through suffering. Having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the cause of eternal salvation, named by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

We have many things to say about these things but it is hard to explain because you have become slow at understanding. For although by this time you should be teachers, you still need to have someone teach you [even] the basic principles of God's oracles. You have come to need milk, and not solid food! Everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness; such a person is a baby. But solid food is for those who are fully grown, who have trained their senses to discern good and evil.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-9

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation

which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 12:1-24

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to

arrest Peter as well. (This was during the days of unleavened bread). After arresting Peter, he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after

the Passover. And so, Peter was kept in the prison, but constant prayer was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, "Stand up quickly!", and Peter's chains fell off from his hands. The angel said to him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals!", and Peter did so. Then the angel said, "Put on your cloak, and follow me!" And Peter went out and followed the angel, but he did not realize that what was being done by the angel was real, thinking that he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, and it opened to them by itself. Having gone through, they went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

When Peter came to himself, he exclaimed, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent out his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named

Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, "You are crazy!" When she insisted that it was so, they said, "It is his angel!" Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, "Tell these things to James, and to the brethren." Then he departed, and went to another place. As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

At that time, Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. With one accord, they came to him, and, having befriended Blastus (the king's personal aide), they asked for peace because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. The people shouted, "The voice of a god, not of a man!"

Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

But the word of God grew and multiplied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 109:4, 5a, 7b

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,

“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek.”

The Lord at Your right hand,  
therefore, He will raise His head high.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:13-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, “Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Jesus then said to them, “But [you], who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## November 26 (27) / U \cf 30 through Novmeber 30 (December 1) / ^c]V\_ 3

Novmber 26 (27) / U \cf 30 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Acacius the Patriarch of Constantinople. The Consecration of the Church of Sts. Cosman, Damina, their borthers, and their mother. St. Macarius the martyr.

Novmber 27 (28) / ^c]V\_ 1 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. **St. Peter the Iberian.** The Consecration of the Church of St. Shenoute the Archimandrite.

Novmber 28 (29) / ^c]V\_ 2 see June 10 / d V k bY 16, page 329.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Abba Hor the monk.

Novmber 29 (30) / ^c]V\_ 3 see April 26 / d VRVbg 1, page 292.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.

November 30 (December 1) / ^c]V\_ 4 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Andrew the Apostle.

## December or ^c]V\_

### December 1 (2) / ^c]V\_ 4 through December 18 (19) / ^c]V\_ 21

December 1 (2) / ^c]V\_ 5 see September 5 (6) / [ccj i 8, page 17.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. **Nahum the Prophet**. St. Victor the martyr. St. Isidore the martyr.

December 2 (3) / ^c]V\_ 6 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Patlas, the priest and martyr. **St. Abraham**, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 3 (4) / ^c]V\_ 7 see January 27 (28) / `R]f 2, page 247.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Matthew the Poor.

December 4 (5) / ^c]V\_ 8 see March 9 / dVfa Sci e 13, page 262.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Theoclas, the 13<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Barbara and Juliana the martyrs. **Sts. Isi and Tecla** the martyrs. St. Samuel of El-Zalamun.

December 5 (6) / ^c]V\_ 9 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Peomin the confessor.

December 6 (7) / ^c]V\_ 10 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Translocation of the Relics of St. Severus of Antioch. **St. Nicholas of Myra**, the confessor.

December 7 (8) / ^c]V\_ 11 see June 10 / dVk bY 16, page 329.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Pijimi

December 8 (9) / ^c]V\_ 12 see May 15 / dVRVbg 20, page 305.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. **St. Hedra the bishop** of Aswan. St. John the confessor. Assembly of a council in Rome in 249 A.D.

December 9 (10) / ^c]V\_ 13 see September 23 (24) / [ccj i 26, page 57.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Commemoration of the Conception of **St. Anna the mother of the Theotokos**. St. Barsanuphius the martyr. St. Apracuous the ascetic. Consecration of the Church of St. Misael the pilgrim.

December 10 (11) / ^c]V\_ 14 see April 22 / dVfa cj i Y27, page 281.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. **Sts. Behnam and Sarah**, his sister. St. Christodoulos the martyrs. Sts. Simon of Manoufia, Abba Hor, and Abba Menas the elder, the martyrs. St. Ammonias the bishop.

December 11 (12) / ^c]V\_ 15 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. Gregory the Armenian.

December 12 (13) / ^c]V\_ 16 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Gideon the Judge. Sts. Haroudia, Annanias, and Khousi the martyrs of Akhmim. The consecration of the Church of **St. James the Persian**.

December 13 (14) / ^c]V\_ 17 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Luke the Stylite.

December 14 (15) / ^c]V\_ 18 see October 19 (20) / dVk eY22, page 76.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Translocation of the relics of **St. Titus the Apostle**. St. Hercules the martyrs and St. Philemon the presbyter.

December 15 (16) / ^c]V\_ 19 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. St. John the bishop of El-Borolos.

December 16 (17) / ^c]V\_ 20 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Haggai the Prophet.

December 17 (18) / ^c]V\_ 21 see December 31 (January 1) / h k VY5, page 197.

December or ^c]V\_ tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Barnabas the Disciple**.

## December 18 (19) / ^ c]V\_ 22

December or ^ c]V\_ Tune

Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel  
St. Anastasius, the 36<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 33:8, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

The Angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear Him,  
and He will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:24-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. Indeed, what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his life? Or what will a person give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come in the

glory of his Father with his angels, and then, he will render to everyone according to their deeds. Amen, I tell you: there are some standing here who will not have tasted death until they see the Son of Man coming in his [Father's Glory]\*." *Glory be to God forever.*

\* Greek has "Kingdom", but Coptic Lectionary has "Father's Glory".



## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 96:7c, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

Worship Him, all His angels!  
Zion heard and was glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced  
because of Your judgments, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 18:10-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven, their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save what was lost.

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine to go into the mountains and look for the one that has gone astray? Amen, I tell you: if he finds it, he rejoices over this one more than over the ninety-nine which did not go astray. Likewise, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that any of these little ones should perish.

If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother!

But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church. If he refuses to hear the Church also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I tell you that whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. Indeed, where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there I am among them." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 2:5-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are

sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name to my brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*  
and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery. Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham's seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.*  
*Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy

and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 10:21-33

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?"

They replied, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was

directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say." Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius

was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up! I am also a man!" As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?"

Cornelius replied, "Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at

the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.' And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 137:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,  
and I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,  
for You heard the words of my mouth.

I will bow down toward Your holy temple.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 1:26-38

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man

whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Having come in, the angel said to her, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord

is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and you will call his name 'Jesus.' He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And to his Kingdom there shall be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. Behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month [of her pregnancy] for her who was called barren. For everything spoken by God is possible."

Mary said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Be it to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

December 19 (20) / ^ c]V\_ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014

December 19 (20) / ^ c]V\_ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

December or ^ c]V\_ tune. **King David.** St. Timothy the pilgrim.

## December 19 (20) / ^ c]V\_ 23 After A.D. 2014

December or ^ c]V\_ Tune

**King David**

St. Timothy the Pilgrim

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 131:10, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

For Your servant David's sake,  
do not turn Your face away from Your anointed.  
The Lord swore to David this truth,  
and He will not annul it,  
"I will set one from the fruit of your loins on your throne."  
*Alleluia.*

John 7:40-53

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is truly the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Christ!" But some said, "What? Does the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" And so, there arose a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. And so, the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they asked the officers, "Why did you not bring him?"

The officers answered, "No one has ever spoken like this man!"

At this, the Pharisees replied, "You are not also led astray, are you? Have any of the rulers believed in him, or the Pharisees? But this multitude that does not know the law is accursed."

Nicodemus (he who came to him by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man, unless it first hears from him personally and knows what he does?"

They answered him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search, and see that no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

[And so, they went each one to his home.] *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 88:20, 21, 22a

*A Psalm of David.*

Then You spoke to Your saints in a vision  
and say, "I have laid help upon a mighty one;  
I have exalted one chosen from My people.  
I have found David, My servant;  
I have anointed him with My holy oil.  
For My hand will support him."  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 12:1-8

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, on the Sabbath day, Jesus went through grain fields. Being hungry, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain and to eat them. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Behold, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

But Jesus replied, "Have not you read what David did, when he and those who were with him were hungry? He entered into the house of God and ate the showbread, which it

was not lawful for him and those with him to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law, that on the Sabbath day, the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and yet remain without guilt? But I tell you that someone greater than the temple is here! If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-40

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained

promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the

sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:7-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard

of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*



## The Praxis

### Acts 2:22-36

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*'I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

Brethren, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us even to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that from the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, [declaring] that his soul would not be left in hades and that his flesh would not see decay. God has raised this Jesus [back to life], and we are all witnesses of this fact. Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but as he himself declared:

*'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'*

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with assurance that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 77:70, 71, 72

*A Psalm of David.*

He chose His servant David,  
and took him from his flocks of sheep—  
He took him from behind sheep giving birth  
to shepherd Jacob His people,  
and Israel His inheritance.  
And he shepherded them in the innocence of his heart,  
and guided them with the wisdom of his hands.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 22:35-46

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

One of them, a lawyer, then asked him a question in order to test him. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. The second is likewise, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Now while the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

They answered, "[He is the son] of David."

Jesus said to them, "How, then, does David, in the Spirit, call him 'Lord', saying:

*'The Lord said to my Lord,  
sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies a footstool  
for your feet?'*

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions. *Glory be to God forever.*

## December 20 (21) / ^ c]V\_ 24 through December 23 (24) / ^ c]V\_ 27

December 20 (21) / ^ c]V\_ 24 see December 30 (31) / h k W4, page 191.

December or ^ c]V\_ tune. **St. Ignatius, the Patriarch of Alexandria.** St. Philogonus the Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 21 (22) / ^ c]V\_ 25 see January 27 (28) / ` R]f 2, page 247.

December or ^ c]V\_ tune. Abba John Kame.

December 22 (23) / ^ c]V\_ 26 see January 25 (26) / h k W30, page 242.

December or ^ c]V\_ tune. **St. Anastasia the martyr.** St. Juliana the martyr.

December 23 (24) / ^ c]V\_ 27 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

December or ^ c]V\_ tune. Abba Bisadi the bishop and martyr.

## December 24 (25) / ^ c]V\_ 28

Annual Tune

Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh  
The Martyrdom of 150 men and 24 women from Antipolis

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 49:2, 23b

*A Psalm of David.*

The splendor of His beauty has appeared out of Zion.

God will come openly,  
and this is the way by which I will show him the salvation of God.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 1:1-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The book of the origins of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron. Hezron became the father of Ram. Ram became the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon. Nahshon became the father of Salmon. Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of King David. David became the father of Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam became the father of Abijah. Abijah became the father of Asa. Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram. Joram became the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham. Jotham became the father of Ahaz. Ahaz became the

father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh. Manasseh became the father of Amon. Amon became the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim. Eliakim became the father of Azor. Azor became the father of Sadoc. Sadoc became the father of Achim. Achim became the father of Eliud. Eliud became the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan. Matthan became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called Christ. And so, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 75:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

God is known in Judah;

His Name is great in Israel.

His sanctuary was in peace,

and His place of dwelling was in Zion.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 1:18-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, the birth of Jesus Christ happened like this: after his mother, Mary, was promised in marriage to Joseph but before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her betrothed who was a righteous man did not want to make her a public spectacle and so intended to put her away secretly. But as he was thinking about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for what is conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She shall bring forth a son and you shall give him the name Jesus because

he shall be the one to save his people from their sins."

Now, all this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son. They shall call his name Emmanuel; which means, With us [is] God.*

Joseph arose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him: he took his wife to [live with] him, and had no relations with her before she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he named him Jesus. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Galatians 3:15-4:18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, even speaking of a human example; when a person's will has been confirmed, it cannot be cancelled or altered (even though it is only human contract). Now, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. [Notice that] he does not say, "to seeds," as if there were many, but as of one, "to your seed," which is Christ. What I am saying is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years after the covenant previously confirmed by God in

Christ, does not cancel it to make the promise of no effect. If the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from the promise; but in fact, God granted it to Abraham by way of a promise.

What then is the law about? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was established through the angels, by the hand of a mediator. Now, there is no mediator when there is only one

party, and God is one. Therefore, is the law against God's [own] promises? Certainly not! If a law had been given which could make alive, then certainly, righteousness would have been from the law. But in fact, the Scriptures declared all things to be captive under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe, that is by faith in Jesus Christ. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, locked up to wait for the faith which would later on be revealed. Hence, the law was our tutor which was to bring us to Christ, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor, and you are all God's children, through faith in Christ Jesus! For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

Here is my point: as long as the heir is a child, he is no different than a slave, although being the owner of everything. The heir, is under tutors and trustees until the day appointed by the father. Likewise, when we too were children, we were held in bondage under the elemental principles of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born to a woman, born

under the law, so that he might redeem those who were under the law and so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" Now, you are no longer slaves, but children; and if children, then heirs of God through Christ.

In the past, as you did not know God, you were in bondage to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather come to be known by God, why do you return to the weak and miserable primordial forces whose slaves you want to be all over again? You observe days, months, seasons, and years... I am afraid concerning you, that I may have wasted my labor for you. I beg you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have never treated me wrongly, but you know that it was an illness that first gave me an opportunity to preach the Good News to you. Even though my condition was a trial for you, you did not despise nor reject me; but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus!

What has happened to the blessing you enjoyed? Indeed, I bear witness to you that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me! And now, have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? Those people pursue you, but not for

good. No, they desire to cut you off from us, so that you might eagerly seek after them. But it is always good

to be zealous in a good cause, not only when I am present with you!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:1-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater is than the one who is in the world. These people are of the world. Therefore, they speak according to [the spirit of] the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us. Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we can discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who

loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 13:13-25

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, Paul and his company set sail from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Continuing from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia. There, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down [to listen]. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent them a message, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak!"

So Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Men of Israel and you [Gentiles] who fear God, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper when they stayed as aliens in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. For a period of about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, God gave them their

land as an inheritance, and this took about four hundred fifty years. After this, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin [who ruled] for forty years. After removing him, he raised up David to be their king, even bearing witness to him, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' From this man's seed, God has brought salvation to Israel, according to his promise. This was before the coming of Jesus, when John first preached the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*



## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 109:3

*A Psalm of David.*

The dominion is Your in the day of Your power,  
in the brightness of Your saints.

I have begotten You from the womb before the dawn.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 2:1-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire [Roman] world. This was the first census made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Because he was of the house and family of David, Joseph left the city of Nazareth in Galilee and went up to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem. He did so to enroll himself with Mary who was pledged to be married to him as wife and who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes. She laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. There were shepherds in the same countryside, staying in the field and keeping watch by night over their flock. And behold, an angel of the

Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy which will be for all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

*Glory to God in the highest, ~on  
earth peace and good will toward men.*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go to Bethlehem now and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." They came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the manger.

When they saw it, they widely spread the news which was spoken to them about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder when they heard what the shepherds were saying. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering

them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, just as it was told them. *Glory be to God forever.*

## December 25 (26) / ^cJ\_29

Joyful Tune

The Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

#### Psalm 71:10

*A Psalm of David.*

The kings of Tarshish and the isles will come bearing gifts;  
the kings of the Arabs and Saba will bring gifts.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 3:23-38

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus himself, when he began to teach, was about thirty years old, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the

son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Aram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the

son of Abraham, the son of Terah,  
the son of Nahor, the son of Serug,  
the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the  
son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the  
son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad,  
the son of Shem, the son of Noah,

the son of Lamech, the son of  
Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the  
son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel,  
the son of Cainan, the son of Enos,  
the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the  
son of God. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 71:15

*A Psalm of David.*

He will live, and to Him will be given the gold of Arabia;  
and men will pray continually in His Name;  
they will bless Him all day long.

*Alleluia.*

#### John 1:14-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The Logos became flesh and made  
his dwelling among us. We beheld his  
glory, glory as a Father's only-  
begotten son, full of grace and truth.  
John testified about him; he cried out,  
saying, "This was he of whom I said,  
'He who comes after me ranks ahead

of me because he was before me.'"  
From his fullness, we have all re-  
ceived grace upon grace. For the law  
was given through Moses, [but] grace  
and truth came through Jesus Christ.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Hebrews 1:1-2:4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

In the past, God spoke to the fa-  
thers through the prophets at many  
times and in various ways. At the end  
of these days, he has spoken to us in  
his Son whom he has appointed heir  
of all things and through whom he  
[had] made the ages. His Son is the  
radiance of his glory, the very image

of his person, upholding all things by  
the word of his power. When he had  
by himself made purification for our  
sins, he sat down on the right hand of  
the Majesty on high, having become  
much better than the angels as the  
Name he has inherited is superior to  
theirs. For to which of the angels did

God ever say:  
You are my Son!  
Today I have I begotten you  
and again:  
I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son

Also, when he brings the firstborn  
into the world, God says:

*"Let all the angels of God worship  
him."*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.<sup>a</sup>*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages  
of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter  
of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and  
hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your*

*companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the  
foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your  
hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he  
ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies the foot-  
stool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits,  
sent out to serve for the sake of those  
who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater  
attention to the things that we  
were taught, for fear that we might  
drift away. For if the word spoken  
through angels proved reliable and  
every transgression and disobedience  
received a just penalty, how will we  
escape if we neglect so great a  
salvation! It was first announced by  
the Lord himself, and is confirmed to  
us by those who heard him. God also  
bore witness with them, both by signs  
and wonders, by various works of  
power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
according to his own will.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent  
to remind you of these things al-  
though you [already] know them and

are established in the truth which you  
now have. I think it right, as long as I  
am in this tent, to stir you up by

reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our

Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 13:26-33a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God

raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. [As it is also written in the second psalm:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.]\**

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

*\*[] Lacking in Kitchener, preseeing in Ottawa and Coptic Reader*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 2:7bc, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son.

Today I have begotten You.

Ask of Me, and I will give You

the nations for Your inheritance,

and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 2:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying: "Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ would be born. They replied, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is written through the prophet:

*"You Bethlehem, land of Judah, are in no way least among the princes of Judah:*

*for out of you shall come forth a ruler, who shall shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod secretly called the wise men, and learned from them

exactly what time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child. When you have found him, bring me word, so that I also may come and worship him."

After listening to the king, they continued on their journey and behold, the star which they had seen in the east was going ahead of them, until it came and stood over the place where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they were filled with tremendous joy. Entering the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But having been warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they

returned to their own country using another way. *Glory be to God forever.*

December 26 (27) / ^ c]V\_ 30

Joyful Tune

The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh  
St. John the Hegoumen

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 71:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

O God, give the King Your judgment,  
and Your righteousness to the King's Son,  
to judge Your people with righteousness  
and Your poor with judgment.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 12:15-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus, perceiving that, withdrew from that place. Many [people] followed him and he healed them all, commanding them not to reveal who he was, so that what was spoken through Isaias the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Behold, my servant whom I have chosen;*

*my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased:*

*I will put my Spirit on him.*

*He will proclaim justice to the nations.*

*He will not quarrel or shout;*

*No one will hear his voice in the streets.*

*He will not break a bruised reed,*

*He will not put out a smoking wick, until he leads justice to victory.*

*In his Name, the nations will hope*

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, "Can this be the son of David?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 71:11, 19b

*A Psalm of David.*

All the kings of the earth will worship Him;  
all the nations will serve Him.  
The whole earth will be filled with His glory.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 22:41-46

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now while the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

They answered, "[He is the son] of David."

Jesus said to them, "How, then, does David, in the Spirit, call him 'Lord', saying:

*'The Lord said to my Lord, ~sit at my right hand, ~until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?'*

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Galatians 4:19-5:1

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My little children, I am again in labor over you, until Christ is formed in you! I wish that I could be with you in person now, to change my tone, because I am confused about you. Tell me, since you desire to be under the law, {why} do you not listen to the law?

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the servant, and one by the free woman. However, the son

by the servant was born according to the flesh, but the son by the free woman was born through a promise. These things contain an allegory which represents two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children to slavery, and that is Hagar. This Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and it corresponds to the Jerusalem that exists now, in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is



above is free, and the mother of us all. As it is written:

*Rejoice, you barren [woman] who bears no child;*

*Break forth and shout, you that do not travail.*

*For more are the children of the desolate than of her who has a husband.*

Brethren, we are, just as Isaac, children of promise, and it is now as it was then: the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one who was born according to the Spirit. So it is even now! However, what does the Scripture say?

*"Throw out the servant-girl and her son, because the son of the servant will not inherit with the son of the free woman."*

And so, brethren, we are not children of a servant, but children of the free woman!

Therefore, stand firm in the freedom by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of slavery!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:15-5:4

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a

liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the

victory that has overcome the world:  
your faith.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are  
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide  
forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 13:36-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*'Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and  
perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish  
a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one  
would proclaim it to you.'*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 71:17

*A Psalm of David.*

Let His Name be blessed throughout the ages!

His name will endure longer than the sun;

And all the tribes of the earth will be blessed in Him;

All the nations will call Him blessed.

*Alleluia.*

### John 1:1-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was {what} God {was}. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, nothing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. John came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but [he was sent] to bear witness

to the light. The true light who enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world had come into existence through him, and the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his Name. They were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. *Glory be to God forever.*

### December 27 (28) / h k W1

Joyful Tune

The Third Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh  
St. Stephen the Protodeacon and Protomartyr  
St. Lawinianus the Martyr  
The 8000 Martyrs of Akhmim

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 5:12ab, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

Let all who hope in You be glad;  
they will rejoice forever,  
for You will bless a righteous person;  
O Lord, You crowned us with the shield of Your goodwill.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 10:24-33

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! Therefore, do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and nothing hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who [can] kill the body but are not able to kill the soul.

Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Not one of them falls on the ground apart from your Father's will, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows! Whoever confesses me before men I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.  
The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.

*Alleluia.*

### John 12:20-26

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, among those that went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. They came to Philip who was from Bethsaida of Galilee and asked him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus."

Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn, Andrew came with Philip and they told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen,

amen, I tell you; unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit! The one who loves his life will lose it. The one who hates his life in this world will keep it

to eternal life. Anyone who serves me must follow me! Where I am, there will my servant also be. The Father will honor anyone who serve me. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:12

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham's seed? So am I! Are they Christ's servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and

was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches. If anyone is weak, do I not feel weak too? If anyone stumbles, do I not burn with indignation? But if I must boast, I will boast about those things that have to do my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed unto the ages, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor of King Aretas guarded the city in order to arrest me. But I was let down in a basket along the wall through a window, and this is how I escaped from his hands.

Without a doubt, it is not profitable for me to boast, but I will now discuss visions and revelations from

the Lord. I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago, was caught up into the third heaven (whether [it was] in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows). [Yes], I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for anyone to utter. On behalf of such a person, I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. If my intention is to boast, I will not be foolish: I will speak the truth. But now, I shall stop, so that no one may think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me. Because of the tremendous greatness of these revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan that torments me, so that I would not be too exalted. Yes, I should not be too exalted!

Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me, but he replied to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And so, it is with joy that I would rather [find] glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

Therefore, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, necessities, persecutions, distresses, {all this} for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong! I have acted foolishly in this boasting, but you compelled me! I should have been commended by you, because even though I am nothing, I am not in anything inferior to the very best apostles. Truly, the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all patience, in signs, wonders and mighty deeds.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord

is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable

to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone,*

*and:*

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what

they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 6:1-7:2

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily service [of food distribution]. The Twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not appropriate for us to abandon the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will appoint them over this necessary task and devote

ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

These words pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid their hands on them. Thus, the word of God spread and the number of disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem, and a large number of [Levitical] priests became obedient to the faith.

Full of faith and power, Stephen performed great wonders and signs among the people. But some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) along with Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from Cilicia and Asia reacted. They began debating with Stephen but were not able to withstand the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke. Then, they secretly convinced [some] men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God!" Having stirred up the people, the presbyters and the scribes came against him and arrested him. They brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin and produced false

witnesses who said, "This man is always uttering blasphemies against this holy place and the law. We have even heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us!" All the members of the council gazed at Stephen and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The high priest asked, "Are these things so?"

Stephen answered, "Brothers and fathers, hear me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was [still] in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 20:4, 6

*A Psalm of David.*

For You have overtaken him with the blessings of goodness;

You have placed a crown of precious stones on his head.

Great is his glory in Your salvation;

You will bestow glory and majesty upon him.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 10:1-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, the Lord also appointed seventy[-two] others and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place where he was

about to go. Jesus said to them, "The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send



out laborers into his harvest. Go on your ways, [but] be aware that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, a wallet, or sandals. Do not greet anyone on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a follower of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in that house, eating and drinking what they will give [you], for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever town you enter and if the people welcome you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you!' But if you enter into any town and people there do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the Kingdom of God has come near to you!' I tell you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for such a city.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But in the judgment, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. You, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to hades! Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The seventy[-two] returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!"

Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

## December 28 (29) / h k WY2

See June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Joyful tune. St. Theonas, the 16<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Callinicus the bishop and martyr.

## December 29 (30) / h k V3

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Slaying of the Infants of Bethlehem

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 113:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has remembered us and blessed us;

He has blessed the house of Israel,

He has blessed the house of Aaron;

He has blessed those who fear the Lord,

[both] the small and the great.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 18:1-7

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to himself and set him in their midst. He then said, "Amen, I tell you that unless you change and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives such a

little child in my Name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person that a huge millstone be hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! Such occasions are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom the occasion does come! *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:130, 141, 142a

*A Psalm of David.*

The revelation of Your words enlightens,  
and causes little children to understand.  
I am young and despised,  
but I have not forgotten... Your righteousness.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 18:10-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven, their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save what was lost.

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine to go into the mountains and look for the one that has gone astray? Amen, I tell you: if he finds it, he rejoices over this one more than over the ninety-nine which did not go astray. Likewise, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that any of these little ones should perish.

If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother!

But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church. If he refuses to hear the Church also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I tell you that whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. Indeed, where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there I am among them." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 13:11-14:4

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you

may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,  
has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's

people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:22-30

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But

Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 112:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise the Lord, O you children!

Praise the Name of the Lord.

Let the Name of the Lord be blessed  
from now and forevermore.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 2:13-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. They remained there until the death of Herod, so what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Out of Egypt I have called my son.*

When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.*

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was in Egypt, saying: "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and return the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill the young child's are dead."

Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel. However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene." *Glory be to God forever.*

## December 30 (31) / h k VY4

Joyful Tune  
St. John the Evangelist

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 18:2, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.  
Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.

*Alleluia.*

John 15:7-16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

If you remain in me and if my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you desire and it will be done for you.

In this is my Father glorified: that you bear much fruit; and [this is how] you will be my disciples. Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you! Remain in my love! If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: that you love one another, even as I have

loved you. No one has a greater love than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what his lord is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, so that you should go and bear fruit, and so that your fruit should remain. And so, whatever you will ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 44:2ab, 3bc

*A Psalm of David.*

My heart erupted with a good word;  
I declare my works to the King;  
grace has poured out from Your lips;  
therefore God has blessed You forever.

*Alleluia.*

### John 1:1-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was {what} God {was}. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, nothing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. John came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but [he was sent] to bear witness to the light. The true light who enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world had come into existence through him, and the world did not

recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his Name. They were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Logos became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We beheld his glory, glory as a Father's uniquely-begotten son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him; he cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning,  
what we have heard, what we have

seen with our eyes, what we saw and  
what our hands touched, [this is our

message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so

that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was

being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple.

Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all

the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 138:17, 18a

*A Psalm of David.*

But Your friends were very precious to me, O God;  
their principalities became very strong.

I will count them, and they will be multiplied more than the sand.

*Alleluia.*

## John 21:15-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?"

Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Again, Jesus asked a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?"

Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." A third time, Jesus asked, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you have affection for me?"

Peter was grieved because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you have affection for me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything! You know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep! Amen, amen, I tell you; when you were young, you dressed yourself, and you walked where you wanted to. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

Now, Jesus said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. When he had said this, he said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Then Peter, turning around, saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following [them]. (This was the disciple who had also reclined near Jesus' breast at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") Peter, seeing him, asked Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus answered, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you? You follow me." Therefore, this saying went out among the brethren, that this disciple would not die. Yet, Jesus did not say to Peter that he would not die, but, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who bears witness about these things and who wrote these things.

We know that his witness is true. There are also many other things which Jesus did. If they were all written, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

December 31 (January 1) / h k W5

## December 31 (January 1) / h k W5

See November 21 (22) / U \cf 25, page 126.

Joyful tune. St. Eugenius the soldier and martyr.

## January or h k VY

### January 1 (2) / h k VY6

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Circumcision

The Ascension of Elias into Heaven

St. Basil the Great, the bishop of Caesarea

St. Macianus, the 8<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 115:7c, 8a, 9a, 10a, 9b, 10b

*A Psalm of David.*

You have broken apart my bonds.  
I will offer a sacrifice of praise to You,  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the presence of all His people,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 2:15-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go to Bethlehem now and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." They came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the manger. When they saw it, they widely spread the news which was spoken to them

about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder when they heard what the shepherds were saying. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, just as it was told them. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 65:13, 14a, 15ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I will enter Your house with whole burnt offerings;  
I will pay You my vows,  
which my lips uttered,  
I will offer You fatted whole burnt offerings,  
with incense and rams.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 2:40-52

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The child was growing, and was becoming strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. His parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast, and when they had fulfilled the days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and his mother did not know it. Supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, both listening to

them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed by his understanding and answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Behold, your father and I were anxiously looking for you."

He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" They did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. Then he went down with them, and came to Nazareth. He was subject to them, and his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, as well as in favor with God and men. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Philippians 3:1-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord! To me, writing the same things to you is not tiresome - it is safe! Beware of the dogs, beware of evilworkers, beware of the false circumcision! We are 'circumcised' if we offer divine service to God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, although I myself could have confidence even in the flesh! If anyone thinks that he has {a reason to have} confidence in the flesh, I could even more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews. As regards the law, I was a Pharisee; as far as zeal is concerned, I was persecuting the Church, and as for the righteousness which is based on the law, [I was] found blameless.

However, these things which I thought were gain to me, I have

counted as loss for Christ! Yes, without a doubt, I consider all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things. I consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own (from the law), but through faith in Christ (the righteousness which is from God by faith). Yes, may I know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the communion of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. I am not saying that I have already obtained these things or that I am already made perfect; but I press on to take hold of [the prize] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you

now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very



quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:13-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every

city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 49:14, 23

*A Psalm of David.*

Offer to God a sacrifice of praise,  
and pay your vows to the Most High.

A sacrifice of praise will glorify Me,  
and this is the way by which I will show him the salvation of God.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 2:21-39

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When the eight days were fulfilled and time came for the circumcision of the child, he was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were fulfilled, Joseph and Mary brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord. (For it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"). [They also brought him] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,

and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's anointed. He came in the Spirit into the temple. The parents brought in the child Jesus in order to do according to the custom of the law concerning him. Then Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed God, saying,

*Now you let your servant depart in peace, Master,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before the face of all peoples;  
a light to enlighten the gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.*

Joseph and his mother were wondering at the things which were spoken concerning him. Simeon

blessed them and said to Mary, his mother,

*"Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

There was a certain Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (she was of a great age, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and

she had been a widow for about eighty-four years), who did not depart from the temple, offering divine service with fastings and petitions night and day. Coming up at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Jesus to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem

When they had accomplished all things that were according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 2 (3) / h k VY7 through January 4 (5) / h k VY9

January 2 (3) / h k VY7 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Silvester, the Patriarch of Rome.

January 3 (4) / h k VY8 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. Consecration of the Church of St. Macarius in his monastery. St. Andronicus, the 37<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Benjamin, the 38<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 4 (5) / h k VY9 see October 24 (25) / d Vk eY 27, page 81.

Annual tune. St. Abraham the ascetic.

## January 5 (6) / h k VY10

Annual Tune

The Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of Theophany

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:3a, 6cd

*A Psalm of David.*

My soul thirsts for the living God.

Hope in God, for I will confess Him;

my God is the salvation of my face.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 4:12-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

*The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,*

*toward the sea, beyond the Jordan,*  
*Galilee of the Gentiles,*

*the people who sat in darkness saw a great light,*

*to those who sat in the region and shadow of death,*

*to them light has dawned.*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea as they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fish for people!"

Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once, they left the boat and their father, and followed him. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 41:8a, 9c

*A Psalm of David.*

Deep calls to deep at the roar of Your waterfalls;  
with me [is]

a prayer to the God of my life.

*Alleluia.*

### John 3:22-29

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, Jesus came with his disciples into the land of Judea. He stayed there with them, and

baptized. John also was baptizing at Enon near Salim, because there was much water there, and people came,

and [they] were baptized. (For John had not yet been thrown into prison). Now, there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with some Jews about ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, behold, this one is [now] baptizing and everyone is coming to him!"

John answered, "No one can receive anything, unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom who stands [by] and hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so my joy is fulfilled. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-17a

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through

whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe's household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Kephas," or, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household

of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

Indeed, Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Good News.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-19

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses

of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 16:25-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and

everyone's bonds were loosened. The jailer, awoken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be

saved, you and your household!" Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 44:3

*A Psalm of David.*

You are more beautiful than the sons of men;  
grace has poured out from Your lips;  
therefore God has blessed You forever.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 3:1-18

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son

of Zacharias, in the wilderness. He came into the entire region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaias the prophet:

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness,*

*'Make ready the way of the Lord.*

*Make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled.  
Every mountain and hill will be  
brought low.*

*The crooked will become straight,  
and the rough ways smooth.*

*All flesh will see God's salvation.'*

To the multitudes who went out to be baptized by him, John said, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father;' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones! Even now the axe also lies at the root of the tree, and so every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is [to be] cut down and thrown into the fire."

The multitudes asked him, "What then must we do?"

John answered them, "Whoever has two coats should give to the one who has none. Who has food should do likewise."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what must we do?"

He replied, "Do not collect more than what is appointed to you."

Soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What must we do?"

He said to them, "Extort from no one by violence and do not accuse anyone wrongfully. Be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and everyone reasoned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he was the Christ, John answered them all, "I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is more powerful than I! I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals! He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire! His fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire."

With many other exhortations, he preached Good News to the people.  
*Glory be to God forever.*



## January 6 (7) / h k V11

Joyful Tune  
The Glorious Feast of Theophany

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:7bc, 12cd

*A Psalm of David.*

Therefore I will remember You  
from the land of Jordan.  
Hope in God, for I will give confess Him;  
My God is the salvation of my face.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 3:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In those days, John the Baptizer was preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" This is the one whom Isaiah the prophet had spoken about in these words:

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

*Make ready the way of the Lord!*

*Make his paths straight.*

It was peculiar about John that he wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. Soon, people from Jerusalem, all of Judea and the entire region around the Jordan river went out to [listen to] him. They were baptized by John in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But

when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to receive his baptism, he told them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bring forth fruit worthy of repentance! Do not think [that you can say] to yourselves: 'We have Abraham as our father!' For I tell you that from these stones, God is able to raise up children to Abraham! Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree that does not produce good fruit is to be cut down and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals! He will baptize

you in the Holy Spirit and with fire.  
His winnowing fork is in his hand,  
and he will thoroughly clear his  
threshing floor. He will gather his

wheat into the barn, but the chaff, he  
will burn up with unquenchable fire!  
*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

#### Habakkuk 3:2-19

*From the book of Habakkuk the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Lord, I have heard Your report  
and was afraid;

I considered Your works and was  
greatly astonished.

You shall be known between the  
two living creatures;

In the approaching years You shall  
be acknowledged;

You will be revealed when the  
time comes.

When my soul is troubled,

You will in wrath remember mer-  
cy.

God will come from Teman,

The Holy One from the mount of  
shaded leafy trees. Pause.

His excellence covered the heav-  
ens,

And the earth was full of His  
praise.

His brightness will be like the  
light;

Horns will be in His hand,

And He established a mighty love  
of His strength.

Before His face a word will go  
forth;

It will go out by the shoes of His  
feet.

The earth stood and was shaken to  
and fro;

He looked and the nations melted  
away.

The mountains were shattered by  
force;

The everlasting hills wasted away.

In the place of distresses, I saw  
His eternal ways.

The tents of the Ethiopians will be  
dismayed,

Even the tents of the land of Mid-  
ian.

Were you angry, O Lord, with the  
rivers?

Or was Your wrath against the  
rivers,

Or was Your fury against the sea,

That You will mount on Your  
horses,

And Your chariot is salvation?

"You will stretch your bow against  
scepters," says the Lord. Pause.

The land of rivers shall be torn  
asunder.

Many peoples will see you and be  
in travail,

Dispersing waters from its course.

The abyss uttered its voice;

Raising its form on high.

The sun arose, and the moon  
stood in its course;

At the light of Your arrows they  
went forth,

At the flashing of Your gleaming  
weapons.

You will bring low the land with  
threatening;

You will break the nations in  
wrath.

You went forth for the salvation  
of Your people,

To save Your anointed ones.

You brought death upon the  
heads of the lawless;

You brought bonds upon their  
neck. Pause.

You cut off the heads of rulers in  
amazement;

They shall tremble in it.

They will break their bridles

Like a poor man eating secretly.

You ran your horses into the sea,

Churning up the many waters.

I kept watch, and my belly trem-  
bled

From the sound of the prayer of  
my lips;

And trembling penetrated into my  
bones.

And my very frame of mind was  
troubled.

I shall rest in the day of tribulation

To go up to the people of my  
sojourn.

For though the fig tree will not  
bear fruit

And there be no grapes on the  
vines;

The labor of the olive tree fail

And the fields yield no food;

Though the sheep have no pasture

And there be no oxen in the cribs;

Yet I will glory in the Lord;

I will rejoice in God my Savior.

The Lord God is my strength;

He will direct my feet to the end;

He will set me upon high places,

So to conquer by His song.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 35:1-2 (Literal translation from the Coptic)

*From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Let the wilderness of Jordan re-  
joice, for it has been given the glory

of Lebanon, and the honour of  
Carmel.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 40:1-5

*Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

"Comfort, yes, comfort My peo-  
ple," says God. "O priests, speak to  
the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her,

for her humiliation is ended, her sin is  
pardoned; for she received from the  
Lord's hand double for her sins." The

voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord; make  
straight the paths of our God. Every  
valley shall be filled, and every  
mountain and hill humbled; the  
crooked places shall be made straight,

and the rough places into plains. The  
glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of  
God; for the Lord has spoken."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 9:1

*And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do this first and do it quickly: O  
country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
by the way of the sea, and the rest  
dwelling along the seacoast and parts  
of Judea, and the land beyond the  
Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a

people who walk in darkness, behold  
a great light; and you who dwell in the  
country of the shadow of death, upon  
you a light will shine.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Baruch 3:36-4:4

*From the book of Baruch the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is our God; no other shall be  
compared to Him. He found the  
whole way of knowledge and gave it  
to Jacob His servant and to Israel His  
beloved. Afterwards, He was seen  
upon the earth and lived among men.

She is the book of the command-  
ments of God and the law that  
endures forever. All those who keep  
her will live, but those forsaking her

will die. Return, O Jacob, and take  
hold of her. Walk toward the radiance  
of the presence of her light. Do not  
give your glory to another or the  
things that are of advantage to you to  
a foreign nation.

O Israel, we are blessed, for what  
is pleasing to our God is known to us.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Ezekiel 36:25-29a

*From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

[The Lord says,]\* I shall sprinkle  
clean water on you, and you will be  
cleansed from all your uncleanness,  
and I will also cleanse you from all

your idols. I shall give you a new  
heart and put a new spirit within you.  
I shall take the heart of stone from  
your flesh and give you a heart of

flesh. I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You

will be My people, and I shall be your God. I shall save you from all your uncleanness.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

*\*Found in Copitic, lacking in LXX including OSB.*

### Ezekiel 47:1-9

*Again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Then he brought me back to the outer door of the house, and there was water, flowing from under the open air of the chamber toward the east; and the water was flowing from under the right side court, from the south to the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces east; and there was water coming down, running out on the right side, in the direction in which a man went forth opposite. There was a measure in his hands, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure; and he passed through the water. It was the water of remission. Again he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and the water came up to the waist. Again he measured a thousand, and it

could not be crossed; for it broke into a rushing torrent which man cannot pass through.

He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, along the bank of the river there were very many trees on this side and the other. Then he said to me, "This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is to the east. Then it goes down upon Arabia and reaches as far as the sea to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. So it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day

twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Gospel of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

Psalm 113:3, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

The sea saw [it] and fled;  
the Jordan turned back.  
Why was it, O sea, that you fled,  
and you, O Jordan, that you turned back?  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 3:1-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In those days, John the Baptizer was preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" This is the one whom Isaiah the prophet had spoken about in these words:

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

*Make ready the way of the Lord!*

*Make his paths straight.*

It was peculiar about John that he wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. Soon, people from Jerusalem, all of Judea and the entire region around the Jordan river went out to [listen to] him. They were baptized by John in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to receive his baptism, he told them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bring forth fruit worthy of repentance! Do not think [that you can say] to yourselves: 'We have Abraham as our father!' For I tell you that from these stones, God is able to raise up children to Abraham! Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree that does

not produce good fruit is to be cut down and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals! He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clear his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff, he will burn up with unquenchable fire!

Then, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and [it is] you who come to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Allow it for now, for it is fitting that in this way, we should fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed Jesus [to be baptized]. After he had been baptized, Jesus immediately came out of the water and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming down on him. And behold, a voice from heaven said:

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased!"*

*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 28:3, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The God of glory is thundering.

The Lord is upon many waters.

The voice of the Lord is strong;

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 1:1-11

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets:

*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,*

*who will prepare your way before you.*

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make ready the way of the Lord!*

*Make his paths straight!'*

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and all those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair, a

leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

It happened, in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. A voice came out of the heavens, "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Pauline Epistle

### Titus 2:11-3:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be

gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:5-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the

truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human

testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads

to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus,

and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in

spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, "Did

you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 117:26, 28ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord;  
we have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

You are my God, and I will confess You;  
You are my God, and I will exalt You.

*Alleluia.*

### John 1:18-34

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

No one has seen God at any time! The uniquely-begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, he has explained him.

This is John's testimony, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny [it], [plainly] admitting, "I am not the Christ!"

They asked him, "What then? Are you Elias?" He said, "I am not!" ~ "Are you the prophet?" ~ He answered, "No."

Therefore, they asked him, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

Those who had been sent were from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elias, nor the prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, who is ranked before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who is ranked before me, because he was before me.' I did not know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water: that he would be revealed to Israel." John bore witness, saying, "I beheld the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven and remain on him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'Upon whom you will see the Spirit descending and remaining, this is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' Moreover, I myself have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 7 (8) / h k V12

Joyful Tune

The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of Theophany

Archangel Michael

St. Theodore the Martyr

St. Anatole the Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:2, 7bc

*A Psalm of David.*

My soul longs for You, O God,  
as the deer longs for springs of water.  
therefore I will remember You  
from the land of Jordan.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 3:21-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now it happened, after all the people were baptized, that Jesus was also baptized. As he was praying, the sky was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form as a dove

on him. A voice came out of heaven, saying "You are my beloved Son! In you I am well pleased." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 33:12, 6

*A Psalm of David.*

Come, you children, hear me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Come to Him and be enlightened,  
and your faces will never be ashamed.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 3:13-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and [it is] you who come to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Allow it for now, for it is fitting that in this way, we should fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed Jesus [to be baptized]. After he had

been baptized, Jesus immediately came out of the water and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming down on him. And behold, a voice from heaven said:

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom*

*I am well pleased!"*

*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 1:1-14

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his

grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is

a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God's

possession, to the praise of his glory!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer

for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the

spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:26-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert."

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and

had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join yourself to this chariot."

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?"

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a place with] some water, and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?"

Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!' He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 103:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, You are exceedingly magnified.

You are clothed with confession and splendor,  
wrapping Yourself in light for a garment.

*Alleluia.*



## John 1:35-51

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Again, the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. He looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they began to follow Jesus. Turning and seeing them following, Jesus asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come, and see!"

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. (It was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother, Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which translated means Christ). Andrew brought him to Jesus who looked at him, and said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Kephas" (which translated means Peter). On the next day, being determined to go out into Galilee, Jesus met Philip and said to him, "Follow me!" Now, Philip was from

Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, have written: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!"

Nathanael asked him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see!"

As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, he said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!"

Jesus said to him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" He said to Philip, "Amen, amen, I tell you; hereafter, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 8 (9) / h k V13

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee

St. Theopholus the Monk

St. Demiana the Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 4:8b, 9b

*A Psalm of David.*

[They were increased from] the harvest of their wheat, wine and oil,  
for You alone, O Lord, have made me to live in hope.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 19:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When Jesus had finished [speaking] these words, he departed from Galilee and arrived at the borders of Judea, beyond the Jordan. Great crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Pharisees came to him to test him, asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?"

Jesus answered, "Have not you read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be attached to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?' And so, they are no longer two, but one flesh! Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one tear apart."

They asked him, "Why then did Moses command us to give our wife a bill of divorce and send her away?"

Jesus replied, "Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it has not been so. I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, (except for reason of sexual immorality,) and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

His disciples said to him, "If this is the situation of the man with his wife, it is not advantageous to marry!"

But Jesus said to them, "Not all men can receive this saying: only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way

from their mother's womb, there are also eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the

sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. He who is able to receive this saying, let him receive it." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 103:15ab, 24ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Wine gladdens the heart of man,  
that his face may shine with oil,  
How magnificent are Your works, O Lord!  
You have made all things in wisdom.  
*Alleluia.*

#### John 4:43-54

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After the two days, he departed from there and went into Galilee. (For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country). When he came into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast, for they also went to the feast. Therefore, Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee where he had turned the water into wine. Now, there was a certain royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and begged him that he would come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Jesus then said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will never believe!"

The nobleman said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus told him, "Go on your way. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and he went on his way. Even as he was on the way, his servants met him and told him the news: "Your child lives!" He asked them the hour when the boy had begun to get better. Then, they told him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him!" And so, the father learned that it was at that [very] hour in which Jesus had said to him, "Your son lives." And he believed, along with his whole household. This was the second sign that Jesus performed on his return from Judea into Galilee. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 6:3-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time;

but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And so, do not let sin rule in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace! What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be so! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:20-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because

you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one

who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain

in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:3-13

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice

sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 76:15, 16, 17b

*A Psalm of David.*

You are the God Who does wonders;

You have made Your power known among the peoples.

You redeemed Your people... with Your arm.

the waters saw You and were afraid.

*Alleluia.*

John 2:1-11

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited, with his disciples, to the wedding. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he tell you to do, do it." Now, six water jars made of stone were set there, meant for rites of purification of the Jews, and they each contained two or three measures. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water!" And they filled them

up to the brim. He then said to them, "Now, draw some out, and take it to the chief steward of the feast;" and they did so. When the chief steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine (not knowing where it had come from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and after the guests have drunk freely, the inferior one. But you have kept the good wine until now!" This, the beginning of his signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

January 9 (10) / h k **V**14 through January 16 (17) / h k **V**21

January 9 (10) / h k **V**14 see May 15 / d VRVbg20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Arselidas the monk. St. Maximus, the brother of St. Domatius.

January 10 (11) / h k V15 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 18)

Annual tune. Obadiah the prophet.

January 11 (12) / h k V16 see April 22 / d Vfa cj i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Philotheus the martyr. St. John, the 48<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 12 (13) / h k V17 see June 10 / d Vk bY 16, page 329.

Annual tune. St. Domatius the brother of St. Maximus. St. Yousab, bishop of Garga.

January 13 (14) / h k V18 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. James the Syrian.

January 14 (15) / h k V19 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Finding of the relics of Sts. Apahor, Pisoura, and their mother, Ampera. The thousands of martyrs of Antinou.

January 15 (16) / h k V20 see December 27 (28) / h k V1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Prochorus the Disciple. Consecration of the Church of St. John Chrysostom. Sts. Bahn and Eklog, the martyrs.

January 16 (17) / h k V21 see April 26 / d VRVbg 1, page 292.

Annual tune. The Dormition of our Lady, the Holy Theotokos Mary. St. Gelaria, daughter of Emperor Zeno. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

## January 17 (18) / h k V22

Annual Tune  
St. Anthony the Great

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 31:11a, 32:1b, 31:6

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
[for] praise befits the upright.

Therefore, everyone who is holy will pray to You  
at an appropriate time.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 25:14-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own servant and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately, the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. In the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. But the servant who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came

forward and brought another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

The lord said to the servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

The lord said to this servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!' *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 31:11a, 32:1b, 32:12

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
[for] praise befits the upright.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people He chose as His own inheritance.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 19:11-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*



As the people heard these things, he went on to tell [them] a parable because he was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God would be revealed immediately. He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. So he called ten of his slaves and gave them ten mina coins, and told them, 'Trade [with these] until I come.' But his subjects hated him, and they sent a delegation after him, to say: 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

It so happened that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom,

that he commanded these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, so that he might know what they had earned by conducting business. The first came before him, saying: 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas!'

The king said to him, 'Well done, you good servant! Because you were found faithful with very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

The second came, saying: 'Your mina, Lord, has made five minas!'

And so, the king said to him, 'And you are to be set over five cities.' *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Philippians 3:20-4:9

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice

in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw

in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:9-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the

Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:19-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:20, 67:4

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.  
But let the righteous be glad;  
let them rejoice in the presence of God;  
let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:32-44

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves purses which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens

that does not fail, where no thief can reach and where moth cannot destroy. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps burning. Be like people

waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes. Amen, I tell you: he will dress himself [to serve], make them recline, and he will come to serve them! They will be blessed if the master comes in the second or third watch, and finds them doing so. But know this, that if the master of the house had known when the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and not allowed his house to be

broken into. Therefore, be ready also, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour when you do not expect him."

Peter said to him, "Lord, are you telling this parable [only] to us, or to everyone?"

The Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and wise steward whom his master will set over his household to give [his people] their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his lord will find doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will set this servant over all that he has. *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 18 (19) / h k V̅23 through January 20 (21) / h k V̅25

January 18 (19) / h k V̅23 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Timothy the Apostle. St Cyril IV, the 110<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 19 (20) / h k V̅24 see January 25 (26) / h k V̅30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Mary the ascetic. St. Psati the presbyter.

January 20 (21) / h k V̅25 see May 15 / d VR Vbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Peter of Scetis. St. Askala the ascetic.

## January 21 (22) / h k V26

Annual Tune

The Forty-Nine Martyrs, the Elders of Scetis (Sheheet)  
St. Anastasia the Ascetic

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 31:11a, 32:1b, 31:7

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
[for] praise befits the upright.

Therefore, everyone who is holy will pray to You  
at an appropriate time.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:34-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth! I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. Indeed, I came to set a son against his father, a daughter against her mother and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be members of his own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. The one who saves his life will lose it,

but whoever loses his life for my sake will obtain it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. Whoever receives a righteous person because of this person's righteousness will receive the reward of the righteous. Amen, I tell you that whoever gives one of these little ones even just a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple will in no way lose his reward." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 31:11a, 32:1b, 32:12

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
[for] praise befits the upright.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people He chose as His own inheritance.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:17-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate you,*

*and when they shall exclude and mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven, for their fathers did the same thing to the prophets. Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:3-14

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Consider him who has endured such opposition from sinners, and you will not grow weary or faint in your souls. In your own battle against

sin, you have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood. Have you forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children:

*My child, do not take lightly the  
chastening of the Lord,  
do not faint when you are reprov-  
ed by him;  
for whom the Lord loves, he also  
chastens,  
and he disciplines every son whom he  
receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of {our}

spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a

thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who

suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:3-13

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice

sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*



## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.

The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 4:23-5:16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people. His fame spread into all Syria, and they brought him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, people possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them. Great crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the mountain and when he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to speak and to teach them, saying:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,*

*for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst after righteousness,*

*for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,*

*for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,*

*for they shall see God. ~*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of  
God. ~*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness' sake,*

*for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people revile  
you, persecute you,*

*and say all kinds of evil against you  
falsely for my sake.*

*Rejoice, and be extremely glad, for  
great is your reward in heaven.*

*For that is how they persecuted  
the prophets who were before you.*

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is then good for nothing, only to be cast out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world! A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do you

light a lamp and place it under a measuring basket, but on a stand. And so it shines to all who are in the house. Likewise, let your light shine before all, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 22 (23) / h k V27 through January 24 (25) / h k V29

January 22 (23) / h k V27 see April 22 / d Vf a cj i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Serapion the martyr. Archangel Sourial. Translocation of the relics of St. Timothy the Apostle. St. Apepham the martyr.

January 23 (24) / h k V28 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. St. Clement of Rome, the martyr. St. Kaou the martyr.

January 24 (25) / h k V29 see January 25 (26) / h k V30.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. St. Eksanie the asetic. St. Seriakus the martyr.

## January 25 (26) / h k V30

Annual Tune

Sts. Pistis, Helpis, Agape and Their Mother Sophia, the Martyrs

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:26, 27

*A Psalm of David.*

The rulers went in front, followed by the singers,  
while between them were you maidens playing timbrels.

Bless God in the churches,  
[bless] the Lord from the fountains of Israel!

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 26:6-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar containing very expensive fragrant oil. And she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when his disciples saw this, they were upset and said, "Why this waste? For this oil could have been sold for a good amount and given to the poor."

However, knowing this, Jesus said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a good deed for me! For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me. But by pouring this oil on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Amen, I tell you: wherever this Good News is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told, in memory of her." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 8:3ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

You have prepared praise  
out of the mouth of babies and nursing infants;  
for I behold the heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
You have established the moon and stars.  
*Alleluia.*

#### John 4:15-24

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!"

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

The woman answered, "I have no husband!"

Jesus replied, "You said well, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain,

and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from

the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Ephesians 5:8b-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth. Discern what is well-pleasing to the Lord! Have no fellowship with the vain works of darkness, but rather, expose them for what they are. It is a shame even to speak about the things which these people do in secret! But all things are revealed when they are exposed to the light. Therefore, he says:

*"Awake, you sleeper, arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."*

Therefore, watch carefully how you live, not as unwise, but as wise

[people], making good use of time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine – this is reckless living - but be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs! Sing and chant to the Lord in your heart; always giving thanks for everything in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, even to God the Father. [Finally], be in mutual subjection in the fear of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:5-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him

"lord". You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according

to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as jointheirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled."

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 21:5-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we,

Paul's companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit: 'Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will

deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my

heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus."

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, "The Lord's will be done!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 44:15, 16

*A Psalm of David.*

The virgins in her train will be brought to the King;  
her companions will be brought to You.

They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing;  
they will be led into the temple of the King.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 25:1-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then, the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. Those who were foolish took their lamps but brought no oil along with them whereas the wise ones brought oil in their vessels along with their lamps. Now, since the bridegroom was late, they all became tired and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold! The bridegroom is coming! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their

lamps. The foolish virgins said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' But the wise virgins answered: 'What if there is not enough for us and you? You should rather go to those who sell [oil] and buy some for yourselves.' While they went away to buy [oil], the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and then the door was shut. Afterwards, the other virgins also arrived and said: 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered, 'Amen, I tell you that I do not know you!'

Watch therefore, for you do not  
know on what day or hour the Son of

Man is coming. *Glory be to God forever.*

## January 26 (27) / ` R Jf 1

See November 5 (6) / U \cf 9, page 93.

Annual tune. Eccumenical Council of Constantinople. Consecration of a Church dedicated to St. Peter the Seal of the Martyrs.

## January 27 (28) / ` R Jf 2

Annual Tune  
St. Paul the Hermit  
St. Longinus the Abbot

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 31:11, 6ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
and glory, all you upright in heart.

Therefore, everyone who is holy will pray to You  
at an appropriate time.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 22:24-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

An argument also arose between them about which of them was considered to be the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the nations have lordship over the people, and those who have authority over people are called 'benefactors.' But not so with you! Instead, the one

who is the greater among you should become as the younger, and one who is leading as the one who serves. For who is greater, the one reclining at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? Yet, I am among you as one who serves. But you are those who have remained with me in

my trials, and now I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed [a kingdom] upon me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in

my Kingdom; and you will sit on thrones, judging the Twelve tribes of Israel." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 31:11a, 32:1b, 32:12

*A Psalm of David.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
[for] praise befits the upright.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people He chose as His own inheritance.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 25:14-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own servants and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately, the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. In the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. But the servant who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came

forward and brought another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

The lord said to the servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

The lord said to this servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!' *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 13:7-25

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obeys your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

But I exhort you, brethren, take this word of exhortation well, for I have written to you briefly. Know that our brother Timothy has been freed. If he arrives soon, I will see you with him. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all! Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil,

roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 131:9, 10a, 1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;

Your saints will rejoice  
for Your servant David's sake.

O Lord, remember David  
and all his meekness,  
how he swore to the Lord,  
and vowed to the God of Jacob.

*Alleluia.*

## Mark 9:33-41

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus arrived in Capernaum, and when he was in the house, he asked his disciples, "What were you arguing among yourselves on the way?"

But they remained silent because on the way, they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

He sat down, called the Twelve and told them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and the servant of all." He took a little child and set him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives such a little child in my Name, receives me; and whoever receives me, does not

receive me, but the one who sent me."

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in your Name; and we forbade him, because he does not follow us!"

But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who does a mighty work in my Name will be able to quickly speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is on our side. Amen, I tell you that whoever will give you a cup of water to drink in my Name, because you belong to Christ, will not lose his reward. *Glory be to God forever.*

January 28 (29) / ` Rjf 3 through January 31 (February 1) / ` Rjf

## 6

January 28 (29) / ` Rjf 3 see May 15 / d VRVbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. James the ascetic.

January 29 (30) / ` Rjf 4 see October 19 (20) / d Vk eY 22, page 76.

Annual tune. St. Agabus the Disciple.

January 30 (31) / ` Rjf 5 see October 24 (25) / d Vk eY 27, page 81.

Annual tune. St. Agrippus, the 10<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Bishay and Apanoub. Abba Apollo, the friend of Abba Abib. St. Hippolytus of Rome.

January 31 (February 1) / ` Rjf 6 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. Apparition of the body of St. Hippolytus, the Patriarch of Rome. Sts. Apakir, John, the three virgins and their mother, the martyrs.

January 28 (29) / ` Rjf 3 through January 31 (February 1) / ` Rjf 6  
January 28 (29) / ` Rjf 3 through January  
31 (February 1) / ` Rjf 6

## February or ` Rjf

### February 1 (2) / ` Rjf 7 through February 28 (29) / d Vfa Sci e 4

February 1 (2) / ` Rjf 7 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Theodore, the 45<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 2 (3) / ` Rjf 8 see January 1 (2) / h k VY6, page 198.

Joyful tune. The Entrance of the Lord into the Temple. St. Simeon the Elder. The 21 martyrs of Lybia.

February 3 (4) / ` Rjf 9 see July 27 / ` YgcfZ 3, page 366.

Annual tune. St. Barsuma, the father of the Syrian monks. St. Paul the Syrian, the martyr.

February 4 (5) / ` Rjf 10 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Annual tune. St. James the Son of Alphaeus, St. Justus, the martyr. St. Isidor of Pelusim. St. Philo, the bishop of Persia, and the martyr.

February 5 (6) / ` Rjf 11 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Fabianus, the Patriarch of Rome. Abba John, the 94<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 6 (7) / ` Rjf 12 see May 15 / d VRVbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of Archangel Michael. St. Gelsius the monk.

February 7 (8) / ` Rjf 13 see April 22 / d Vfa cj i Y27, page 281.

Annual tune. Sts. Sergius of Atripe, his father, mother, sister, and companions, the martyrs. St. Timothy III, 32<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 8 (9) / ` Rjf 14 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Severus of Antioch. St. James, the 50<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 9 (10) / ` Rjf 15 see June 10 / d Vk bY 16, page 329.

Annual tune. Zaccariaas the prophet. Consecration of the first Church for the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia. St. Pahnoutius.

February 10 (11) / ` Rjf 16 see September 23 (24) / [ ccj i 26, page 57.

Annual tune. St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist.

February 11 (12) / ` Rjf 17 see April 22 / d Vfa cj i Y27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Menas the monk.

February 12 (13) / ` Rjf 18 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

February 1 (2) / ` R]f 7 through February 28 (29) / d Vf a Sci e 4 February 1 (2) / ` R]f 7 through February 28 (29) / d Vf a Sci e 4

Annual tune. St. Militius, the confessor and Patriarch of Antioch. Consecration of the Church of St. Paul the Simple.

February 13 (14) / ` R]f 19 see May 15 / d VR Vbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Martianus of Athens to Antioch

February 14 (15) / ` R]f 20 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Peter II, 21<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Basil, Theodore, and Timoty of Alexandria, the martyrs.

February 15 (16) / ` R]f 21 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Onesimus, the slave of Philemon, the martyr. St. Gabriel, the 57<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Zachariah, the bishop of Sakha.

February 16 (17) / ` R]f 22 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Maruta.

February 17 (18) / ` R]f 23 see April 22 / d Vf a cj i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Eusebius, son of St. Basilides, the martyr.

February 18 (19) / ` R]f 24 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Agapius the bishop. Sts. Timothy and Matthias, the martyrs.

February 19 (20) / ` R]f 25 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. Sts. Archippus, Philemon, and Lycia, the new martyrs. St. Quona and St. Menas, the martyrs.

February 20 (21) / ` R]f 26 September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 28)

Annual tune. Hosea the prophet. St. Zadok and his Persian companions, the martyrs.

February 21 (22) / ` R]f 27 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. St. Eustathius the patriarch of Antioch. St. Perpetua the Martyr of North Africa.

February 22 (23) / ` R]f 28 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Thedorus the Roman.

February 23 (24) / ` R]f 29 see December 30 (31) / h k V4, page 191.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection. St. Polycarp the bishop of Smyrna, the martyr.

February 24 (25) / ` R]f 30 see May 27 / d Vk bY 2, page 322.

Annual tune. The finding of the head of St. John the Baptist.

February 25 (26) / d Vf a Sci e 1 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

February 29 / ^cj T]bWzi (The Little Month) 6February 29 / ^cj T]bWzi (The Little Month) 6

Annual tune. St. Narcissus the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Alexandrus the martyr. Anba Marcu-  
ra.

February 26 (27) / dVfa Sci e 2 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Macrobius the bishop and martyr.

February 27 (28) / dVfa Sci e 3 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143. (Fr. Athanasius

Iskander reports this as "see September 13 (14) / [ ccj i 16, page 23", but St. Shenouda's  
Society, and the Ottawa Lectionary agree with November 25 (26).

Annual tune. St. Cosmas, the 58<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Porphyry the martyr. St.  
Hadid the preist.

February 28 (29) / dVfa Sci e 4 see November 5 (6) / U \cf 9, page 93.

Annual tune. Council on the Island of Bani-Omar. St. Haboulyous the prince and martyr.

## February 29 / ^cj T]bWzi (The Little Month) 6

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:95, 96

*A Psalm of David.*

Sinners waited for me [in order] to destroy me;

I understood Your testimonies.

I saw the end of all perfection;

Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:10-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. Behold, there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up. When Jesus saw her, he called her, and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!" He laid his hands on her

and immediately, she stood up straight and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the crowd, "There are six days in which people should work! Therefore, come on those days and be healed, not on the Sabbath day!"



Then, the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each one of you free his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath, and lead it out to water? Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham who was bound by Satan for eighteen years, be

freed from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame and all the people rejoiced over all the glorious things that were done by him. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 118:89, 90

*A Psalm of David.*

Your word, O Lord,  
continues forever in Heaven.  
Your truth [endures] from generation to generation;  
You founded the earth, and it continues.  
*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 4:23-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He said to them, "With doubt, you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard was done at Capernaum, do also here in your hometown.'" He continued, "Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the land. Elias was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of

Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian."

As they heard these things, all were filled with wrath in the synagogue. They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to throw him off the cliff. But he, passing through their midst, went his way. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Colossians 3:8-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against

anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:16-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he

prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:12b-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed

baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 118:97, 98

*A Psalm of David.*

O how I love Your law, O Lord!

It is my meditation all day long.

You made me wiser than my enemies by Your commandment,  
for it is mine forever.

*Alleluia.*

### John 2:1-11

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the

mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited, with his disciples, to the

wedding. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he tell you to do, do it." Now, six water jars made of stone were set there, meant for rites of purification of the Jews, and they each contained two or three measures. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water!" And they filled them up to the brim. He then said to them, "Now, draw some out, and take it to

the chief steward of the feast;" and they did so. When the chief steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine (not knowing where it had come from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and after the guests have drunk freely, the inferior one. But you have kept the good wine until now!" This, the beginning of his signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

## March or d Vfa Sci e

### March 1 / d Vfa Sci e 5 through March 8 / d Vfa Sci e 12

March 1 / d Vfa Sci e 5 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Serapamon the ascetic. St. Peter the priest and martyr. St. Eudexia the martyr.

March 2 / d Vfa Sci e 6 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

Annual tune. St. Dioscorus the new martyr. St. Theodotus the bishop.

March 3 / d Vfa Sci e 7 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sts. Philemon and Apollonius the martyrs. St. Mary of Israel, the martyr.

March 4 / d Vfa Sci e 8 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Annual tune. St. Matthias the Apostle. St. Julian, the 11<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Ariannus the martyr.

March 5 / d Vfa Sci e 9 see May 15 / d VRVbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Koran. Sts. Abrianus, Amarata his wife, Eusebius, Armanius, and the forty after them, the martyrs.

March 6 / d Vfa Sci e 10 see September 14 (15) / [ ccj i 17, page 28.

Palm Tune. The Appearance of the Holy Cross

March 7 / d Vfa Sci e 11 see September 18 (19) / [ ccj i 21, page 53.

Annual tune. St. Basil the bishop and martyr.

March 8 / d Vfa Sci e 12 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. Monthly Commemoration of Archangel Michael. St. Demetrius' virginity revealed. St. Malachius the martyr. St. Glathinos the martyr.

## March 9 / d Vfa Sci e 13

Annual Tune.

St. Dionysius, the 14<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria  
The return of Abba Macarius the Great and Abba Macarius of Alexandria  
The Forty Matrys of Sebastia

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.  
The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:24-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
"If anyone desires to come after me,  
let him deny himself, and take up his  
cross, and follow me. For whoever  
desires to save his life will lose it, and  
whoever will lose his life for my sake  
will find it. Indeed, what will it profit  
a man, if he gains the whole world,  
and loses his life? Or what will a

person give in exchange for his life?  
For the Son of Man will come in the  
glory of his Father with his angels,  
and then, he will render to everyone  
according to their deeds. Amen, I tell  
you: there are some standing here  
who will not have tasted death until  
they see the Son of Man coming in  
his Kingdom." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 36:39, 40ac

*A Psalm of David.*

The deliverance of the righteous is from the Lord,  
and He is their protector in time of affliction.  
The Lord will help them and deliver them;  
[He will] save them, because they hope in Him.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 13:9-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But be on your guard, for people will hand you over to the courts. You will be beaten in the synagogues, you will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. When they take you away and arrest you, do not worry in advance. Do not think ahead about what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it

is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his [own] child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience.

Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, "His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is worthless." Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those

who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only

within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did not reach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but

having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But "he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was

preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong



the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 12:25-13:12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false

prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, "You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!"

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light has dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:53-12:12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As he said these things to them, the scribes and Pharisees began a furious attack on him and tried to force answers from him on many questions. They were lying in wait for him and seeking to catch him in something he might say, in order to accuse him.

Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so much so that they trampled on each other. Jesus began to speak, first of all to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed; or hidden, that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light. What you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and

after that can do no more. But I will warn you whom you should fear: fear the one who after he has killed, has [also] power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows.

I tell you, whoever confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me in the presence of men will be denied in the presence of the angels of God.

Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the

authorities, do not be anxious about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say; for the Holy Spirit

will teach you in that same hour what you must say." *Glory be to God forever.*

## March 10 / d Vfa Sci e 14 through March 24 / d Vfa Sci e 28

March 10 / d Vfa Sci e 14 see September 18 (19) / [ ccj i 21, page 53.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the martyr.

March 11 / d Vfa Sci e 15 see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Sarah of Upper Egypt. St. Elias of Hnes.

March 12 / d Vfa Sci e 16 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Mikhail, the 46<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 13 / d Vfa Sci e 17 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Lazarus, the friend of Christ, the bishop of Cyprus. St. George the ascetic martyr. St. Sidhom Bishai the martyr. St. Basil, bishop of Jerusalem.

March 14 / d Vfa Sci e 18 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Isidore the martyr.

March 15 / d Vfa Sci e 19 see December 27 (28) / h k VY1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Aristobulus the Disciple. Sts. Alexander, Agabius, Timol, Dionysius, and Romulus, the martyrs.

March 16 / d Vfa Sci e 20 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Michael II, the 56<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The Raising of Lazarus from the dead.

March 17 / d Vfa Sci e 21 see August 6 / ` Ygcf Z 13, page 372.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. Dwelling of our Lord in Bethany. Consultation of the chief preists to put Lazarus to death.

March 18 / d Vfa Sci e 22 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Cyril of Jerusalem. St. Michael the bishop of Nakada. Joseph of Arimathea.

March 19 / d Vfa Sci e 23 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Daniel the prophet.

March 20 / d Vfa Sci e 24 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Macarius, the 59<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Apparition of the Theotokos at Zeitoun.

March 21 / d Vfa Sci e 25 see October 11 (12) / d Vk eY14, page 69.

Annual tune. St. Oneishorus the Disciple. St. Matthias, the 100<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 22 / d Vfa Sci e 26 see January 25 (26) / h k V30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Eupraxia, a virgin of Rome. St. Peter VI, the 104<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 23 / d Vfa Sci e 27 see October 24 (25) / d Vk eY 27, page 81.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Crucifixion. Abba Macarius the Great. St. Domicos the martyr.

March 24 / d Vfa Sci e 28 see September 13 (14) / [ ccj i 16, page 23.

Annual tune. Emperor Constantine the Great. St. Peter VII, the 109<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Abba Sarapamon.

## March 25 / d Vfa Sci e 29

Joyful Tune

Feast of the Annunciation of the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 143:5, 7ab (part of b)

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, bow the heavens, and come down;  
touch the mountains, and they will smoke.  
Send out Your hand from on high;  
deliver me and save me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:36-50

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered into the Pharisee's house, and sat at the table. And behold, a woman who was a sinner in the city, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of perfume. Standing behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them

with the hair of her head, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. Now, when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would have perceived who is touching him and what kind of woman this is, that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

He said, "Speak, teacher."

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Then, which of them will love him the most?"

Simon answered, "The one to whom he forgave the most I suppose."

Jesus said to him, "You have judged correctly." Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered into your house, and you gave me no water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with the her

hair. You gave me no kiss, but since the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she has loved much. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 71:6, 7a+

*A Psalm of David.*

He will descend like rain on a fleece,  
and like drops falling on the earth.

In His days, righteousness and abundant peace  
will flourish.

*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 11:20-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

When a strong man is fully armed and guards his own house, his goods are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and overpowers him, he

takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters!

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding

no rest, the unclean spirit says, 'I will return to my house from which I came out.' When he returns, he finds it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first."

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!"

But Jesus said, "Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 3:1-31

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

*That you might be justified in your words,  
and might prevail when you come in-  
to judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), "Let us

do evil, that good may come?" Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

*There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used  
deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their  
lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and  
bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their  
ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it. It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his

blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to

you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and

with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:23-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand,

was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: 'Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other



pushed Moses away, saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?

Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the

Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 44:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Listen, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear,  
and forget your people and your father's house,  
for the King desired your beauty,  
for He is your Lord.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 1:26-38

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Having come in, the angel said to her, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord

is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring

forth a son, and you will call his name 'Jesus.' He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And to his Kingdom there shall be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will over-

shadow you. Therefore, the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. Behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month [of her pregnancy] for her who was called barren. For everything spoken by God is possible."

Mary said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Be it to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her. *Glory be to God forever.*

## March 26 / dVfaSci e 30 through March 31 / dVfaj i Y5

March 26 / dVfaSci e 30 see December 18 (19) / ^cJ\_ 22, page 152.

Annual tune. Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel. Transfer of the Relics of St. James the Persian. Samson the Judge.

March 27 / dVfaj i Y1 see May 15 / dVRVbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Silvanus the monk. The Arabs of Upper Egypt attacked the desert of Scetis. Aaron the prophet.

March 28 / dVfaj i Y2 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Christopher, the martyr. Pope Youannis IX, the 81<sup>st</sup> Patrairch of Alexandria.

March 29 / dVfaj i Y3 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. John the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Michael, the 71<sup>st</sup> Patrairch of Alexandria.

March 30 / dVfaj i Y4 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sts. Victor, Decius, Eirene the Virgin, and those with them, the martyrs.

March 31 / dVfaj i Y5 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual utne. Ezekiel the Prophet. St. Hepartius the bishop of Gangra, the martyr.

## April or d Vf a cj i Y

### April 1 / d Vf a cj i Y 6 through April 17 / d Vf a cj i Y 22

April 1 / d Vf a cj i Y 6 see January 25 (26) / h k VŴ30, page 242.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the appearance of the Lord to St. Thomas. St. Mary of Egypt.

April 2 / d Vf a cj i Y 7 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. St. Joachim, the father of the Theotokos. St. Macrobius. Sts. Agapious, Theodora and Metruf.

April 3 / d Vf a cj i Y 8 see January 25 (26) / h k VŴ30, page 242.

Annual tune. Agape, Eirence, Shiona, the virgin martyrs. The One Hundred and Fifty Martyrs at the hand of the king of Persia.

April 4 / d Vf a cj i Y 9 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137 (according to an Arabic Lectionary. The Ottawa lectionary and St. Shenouda's Society have: see January 17 (18) / h k VŴ22, page 231.)

Annual tune. St. Zosimus the priest. Commemoration of the miracle at the hand of Pope Shenouti I, the 55<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 5 / d Vf a cj i Y 10 see May 15 / d VR Vbg 20, page 305.

Annual tune. St. Isaac, the disciple of Abba Apollo. St. Gabriel II, the 70<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 6 / d Vf a cj i Y 11 see January 25 (26) / h k VŴ30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Theodora the virgin. St. John, the bishop of Gaza.

April 7 / d Vf a cj i Y 12 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Antonios, the bishop of Tamoui.

April 8 / d Vf a cj i Y 13 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sts. Joshua and Joseph, the martyrs. Dionisa the Deaconess and Medius the martyrs. St. Youanni 17<sup>th</sup>, the 105<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 9 / d Vf a cj i Y 14 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Maximus, the 15<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 10 / d Vf a cj i Y 15 see December 27 (28) / h k VŴ1, page 179.

Annual tune. The Consecration of the altar for St. Nicholas of Myra. The Consecration of the Church of St. Agabus the Disciple. St. Alexandra the Empress. St. mari VI, the 101<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 11 / d Vf a cj i Y16 see December 30 (31) / h k V4, page 191.

Annual tune. St. Antipas, the bishop of Pergamos, the martyr. The ascension of Enoch the prophet to heaven.

April 12 / d Vf a cj i Y17 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Annual tune. St. James the son of Zebedee, the Apostle. St. Nicodemus.

April 13 / d Vf a cj i Y18 see April 22 / d Vf a cj i Y27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Arsenius the slave of St. Sosenyous, the martyr.

April 14 / d Vf a cj i Y19 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Simeon the Armenian, the bishop of Persia, the martyr. St. John the martyr. Vizir abu Elaala Fahd ibn Ibrahim an dhis companions, the martyrs. David the monk and martyr.

April 15 / d Vf a cj i Y20 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Paphnuti the martyr.

April 16 / d Vf a cj i Y21 see September 18 (19) / [ ccj i 21, page 53.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Hierotheos of Athens.

April 17 / d Vf a cj i Y22 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Isaac of Hourin. St. Alexander I, the 19<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Mark II, the 49<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Michael II, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y23

Annual Tune  
Daniel the Prophet  
St. George the Prince of the Martyrs

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 33:18, 19

*A Psalm of David.*

The righteous cried and the Lord heard them,  
and delivered them from all their afflictions.

The Lord is near the brokenhearted,  
and will save those who are humble in spirit.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 10:16-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves! Therefore, be wise as serpents, and yet innocent as doves. But beware of men: they will hand you over to councils and in their synagogues, they will flog you. Yes, you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as witnesses to them and to the nations. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what you will say; what you will say

will be given you in that hour. Indeed, it is not you who [shall] speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.  
The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 8:34-9:1

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Indeed, whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. What does it profit if someone, to gain the whole world,

loses his life? For what will someone give in exchange for his life? Whoever will be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that there are some standing here

who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 8:28-39

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the

dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter." No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live

the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in

indecent, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love,

for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 16:16-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As we were going to prayer, it happened that we encountered a certain girl who had a spirit of divination and who brought much gain to her masters by fortune telling. As she followed Paul and us, she cried out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us a way of salvation!" And she did this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned back and said to the spirit, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, I order you to come out of her!" And the spirit came out that very moment. But when her masters

saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These Jewish men are causing disturbance in our city! They teach customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or observe!"

When the crowd also rose up against them, the magistrates had them stripped and flogged. After giving them a severe flogging, the magistrates had them thrown into prison, ordering the jailer to keep

them securely. Having received such a command, he threw them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. The jailer, awoken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household!" Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light has dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 21:12-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up

to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my Name's sake. It will turn out for



you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or contradict. You will be handed over

even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will acquire your lives. *Glory be to God forever.*

## April 19 / dVfa cj i Y24 through April 21 / dVfa cj i Y26

April 19 / dVfa cj i Y24 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti I, the 55<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Sina the soldier and martyr.

April 20 / dVfa cj i Y25 see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Sarah and her two sons, the martyrs. Sts. Paphnouti the Hermit, Theodore the Worshipper, and the One Hundred martyrs.

April 21 / dVfa cj i Y26 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Sosenios the martyr. St. John VII, the 78<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## April 22 / dVfa cj i Y27

Annual Tune

St. Victor, the son of Romanus, the Martyr  
St. Joachim, the Father of the Theotokos

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 4:7b, 8a, 9b

*A Psalm of David.*

The light of Your presence has been signed upon us, O Lord.  
You have given more gladness to my heart  
for You alone, O Lord, have made me to live in hope.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 16:24-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. Indeed, what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his life? Or what will a person give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come in the

glory of his Father with his angels, and then, he will render to everyone according to their deeds. Amen, I tell you: there are some standing here who will not have tasted death until they see the Son of Man coming in his [Father's glory]\*." *Glory be to God forever.*

\*Greek has "Kingdom," but Coptic lectionary has "Father's glory".

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 5:12d, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

And all who love Your Name will glory in You,  
for You will bless a righteous person;

O Lord, You crowned us with the shield of Your goodwill.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 10:34-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth! I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. Indeed, I came to set a son against his father, a daughter against her mother and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be members of his own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter

more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. The one who saves his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will obtain it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. Whoever receives a

righteous person because of this person's righteousness will receive the reward of the righteous. Amen, I tell you that whoever gives one of these

little ones even just a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple will in no way lose his reward." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 8:18-30

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.  
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are  
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its  
desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide  
forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:23-41

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its

credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends

sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things

cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 67:36ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
But let the righteous be glad;  
let them rejoice in the presence of God;  
let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 12:4-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will warn you whom you should fear: fear the one who after he has killed, has [also] power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows.

I tell you, whoever confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also

acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me in the presence of men will be denied in the presence of the angels of God.

Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that same hour what you must say." *Glory be to God forever.*

## April 23 / dVfa cj i Y28 through April 24 / dVfa cj i Y29

April 23 / dVfa cj i Y28 see November 21 (22) / U \cf 25, page 126.

Annual tune. St. Milius, the ascetic martyr.

April 24 / dVfa cj i Y29 see December 27 (28) / h k W1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Erastus the Disciple. St. Acacius the bishop of Jerusalem.

## April 25 / dVfa cj i Y30

Annual Tune  
St. Mark the Evangelist and Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 39:10abc, 3c

*A Psalm of David.*

I have proclaimed righteousness  
in the great assembly.

I will not restrain my lips;  
He set my feet on a rock, and directed my steps.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 6:6b-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He went around the villages, teaching. Calling to himself the Twelve, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He told them to take nothing for their journey, except for a staff: no bread, no wallet, no money in their purse. He also told them to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter into a house, stay there until you depart from the area. If any place does not welcome you and if

people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Amen, I can tell you that in the day of judgment, things will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that city!"

They went out and preached that people should repent. They also cast out many demons and anointed with oil many people who were sick and healed them. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 104:1, 2, 3a

*A Psalm of David.*

Confess the Lord and call on His Name;  
tell of His works among the nations.

Sing to Him and praise Him;  
recount all His wonderful works.

Glory in His holy Name.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 10:17-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As Jesus was setting out on his journey, someone ran to him, knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do in order to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except one:

God. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder,' 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not give false testimony,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and mother.'"

The man said, "Teacher, I have observed all these things since my youth!"

Jesus looked at him and felt love for him. He then said, "You lack one thing. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor. You will have a treasure in heaven; then come, follow me, taking up the cross."

However, the man was distressed when he heard this. He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for the wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a

needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

They were extremely astonished and said to him, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and answered, "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God!"

Peter began to tell him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed you."

Jesus replied, "Amen, I tell you: there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, father or mother, or wife, children, or land, for my sake and for the sake of the Good News who will not receive a hundred times more in this time: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, (with persecutions); and in the age to come eternal life. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:18

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned

which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.



Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing. Do your utmost to visit me soon,

because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as well as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metal-worker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and heard by all the Gentiles. I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion and the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the

glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly,

not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the

world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:36-16:5

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!" Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them

someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by

the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of

the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presbyters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 95:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord, all the earth;  
sing to the Lord, praise His Name;  
proclaim His salvation from day to day.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 1:1-11

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets:

*Behold, I send my messenger before  
your face,  
who will prepare your way before  
you.*

*The voice of one crying in the wilder-  
ness: 'Make ready the way of the Lord!  
Make his paths straight!'*

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and all those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair, a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey. He

preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

It happened, in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee,

and he was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. A voice came out of the heavens, "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." *Glory be to God forever.*

## April 26 / dVRVbg1

Annual Tune  
The Nativity of the Theotokos

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 86:3, 5c, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God. (Pause)  
for the Most High Himself has [established] her [forever].

All who rejoice have their dwelling in you!

*Alleluia.*

Luke 10:38-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As they went on their way, Jesus entered into a village, and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. She had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word. But Martha was distracted with much serving. She came up to Jesus, and said, "Lord, do

you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Ask her to help me!"

But Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things! But one thing is needed! Mary has chosen the good part, and it will not be taken away from her." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 47:9abc, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

As we have heard, so we have seen  
in the city of the Lord of Hosts,  
in the city of our God;  
The Lord is Great, and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God, in His holy mountain.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 12:35-50

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

The good man brings out good things out of his good treasure, and the evil man brings out evil things out of his evil treasure. I tell you that for every idle word that people speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

But Jesus answered, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation except for the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it because they repented at

the preaching of Jonah. And behold, someone greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the south will stand up in the judgment with this generation and she will condemn it because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. And behold, someone greater than Solomon is here!

After an unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he wanders through dry places seeking rest and does not find it. He then says, 'I will return into my house from which I came out,' and when he has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order! Then, he goes [around] and brings with himself seven other spirits more evil than he, and they enter in and dwell there. And so, the last state of that person becomes worse than the first. This is how it will be with this evil generation."

While Jesus was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, desiring to speak to him. Someone said to him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you."

But to the person who had spoken, Jesus answered, "Who is my

mother? Who are my brothers?" He then stretched out his hand towards his disciples and said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers! As it is, whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 9:1-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins

committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 John (all)

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess

that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 1:1-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*



## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 44:13, 14

*A Psalm of David.*

And the daughter of Tyre will worship Him with gifts;  
the richest of the people will entreat your favor.

All the glory of the King's daughter is within,  
adorned and embroidered with golden tassels, with many colours.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 1:39-56

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In those days, Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah. She entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped in my womb out of joy! Blessed is she who believed, for the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

Mary's canticle or Magnificat  
Mary said,  
My soul magnifies the Lord

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

for he has looked at the humble state of his handmaid.

For behold, from now on, all generations shall call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things for me, ~ And Holy is his Name!

His mercy is for generations of generations on those who fear him.

He has shown strength with his arm,

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

He has put down princes from their thrones.

And has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

He has sent the rich away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant,

So that he might remember mercy,

As he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his seed forever.  
Mary stayed with Elizabeth for  
about three months, and then

returned to her house. *Glory be to God  
forever.*

## April 27 / d VRVbg 2 through April 30 / d VRVbg 5

April 27 / d VRVbg 2 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. Job the Rigtheous.

April 28 / d VRVbg 3 see December 27 (28) / h k W1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Jason the Disciple. St. Otimus the priest. St. Gabriel IV, the 86<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 29 / d VRVbg 4 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. John I, the 29<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. John V, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 30 / d VRVbg 5 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Jeremias the Prophet.

## May or d VRVbg

### May 1 / d VRVbg 6 through May 4 / d VRVbg 9

May 1 / d VRVbg 6 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. St. Isaac El-Defrawi the martyr. St. Macarius of Alexandria. St. Paphnouti of El-Bandara the presbyter.

May 2 / d VRVbg 7 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Athanasius the Apostolic, the 20<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 3 / d VRVbg 8 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual utne. St. John of Senhout, the martyr. St. Daniel, the Hegoumen of Scetis (Sheheet).

May 4 / d VRVbg 9 see September 13 (14) / [ ccj i 16, page 23.

Annual tune. St. Helena the Empress. St. John XI, the 89<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Gabriel VIII, the 97<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## May 5 / d VRVbg 10

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Three Holy Youths in the Fiery Furance

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 4:4, 7b, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

Know that the Lord made His Holy One wondrous;

the Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

The light of Your presence has been signed upon us, O Lord.

You have given... gladness to my heart.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 11:25-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, Jesus exclaimed, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the learned and intelligent, and revealed them to infants! Yes, Father, this was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except

the Son and the one to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Indeed, my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 112:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Praise the Lord, O you children!

Praise the Name of the Lord.

Let the Name of the Lord be blessed  
from now and forevermore.

*Alleluia.*

#### Mark 10:13-16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

People were bringing little children to him so that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked those who were bringing them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me! Do not forbid them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such

as these. Amen, I tell you that whoever will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will in no way enter into it!" He took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon,

Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through

faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They

wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:12-19a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but

on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good

News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:23-41

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The whole city was filled with confusion.

The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is

temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them

press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 65:12bc, 13, 14a

*A Psalm of David.*

We passed through fire and water,  
and You brought us out to revival.  
I will enter Your house with whole burnt offerings;  
I will pay You my vows,  
which my lips uttered.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 18:10-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven, their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save what was lost.

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine to go into the mountains and look for the one that has gone

astray? Amen, I tell you: if he finds it, he rejoices over this one more than over the ninety-nine which did not go astray. Likewise, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that any of these little ones should perish.

If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother!

But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church. If he refuses to hear the Church also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I tell you that whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and

whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. Indeed, where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there I am among them." *Glory be to God forever.*

## May 6 / d VRVbg 11 through May 14 / d VRVbg 19

May 6 / d VRVbg 11 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Theoclia the wife of St. Justus, the martyr. St. Paphnouthi the bishop.

May 7 / d VRVbg 12 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of St. Demiana. The Relocation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom. The appearance of the Cross of Light above Glogotha. St. Mark VII, the 106<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Teacher (Mo'alleme) Malati the martyr.

May 8 / d VRVbg 13 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Arsanius the tutor of the Emperor's children.

May 9 / d VRVbg 14 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. St. Pakhom, the father of the Cenobitic Life. St. Epimachus of Pelusium, the martyr.

May 10 / d VRVbg 15 see October 9 (10) / d Vk eY 12, page 65.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Zealot, the Apostle. The Four Hundred Martyrs in Dandara. St. Menas the Deacon.

May 11 / d VRVbg 16 see December 30 (31) / h k VY4, page 191.

Annual tune. St. John the Evangelist.

May 12 / d VRVbg 17 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Epiphanius the bishop of Cyprus.

May 13 / d VRVbg 18 see October 24 (25) / d Vk eY 27, page 81.

Annual tune. St. George, the friend of St. Abraam. The Commemoration of Pentecost.

May 14 / d VRVbg 19 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

Annual tune. Abba Isaac, the presbyter of the Cells. St. Isidore of Antioch, the martyr.



## May 15 / d VR Vbg 20

Annual Tune  
Abba Ammonius the Anchorite

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 64:5abc, 6ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he whom You have chosen  
and taken to Yourself;  
he will dwell in Your courts forever.  
Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 24:42-47

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Watch therefore, for you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be ready, for it is at

an hour which you do not expect that the Son of Man will come.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing so when he comes. Amen, I tell you that he will set him over all that he has.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 36:17b, 18, 29

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord supports the righteous.  
The Lord knows the ways of the blameless,  
and their inheritance will be eternal.

The righteous will inherit the earth,  
and dwell in it unto ages of ages.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 13:33-37

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

It is like a man who journeyed to another country. He leaves his house, gives authority to his servants and to each one his task. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you do not

know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning. But fear that coming suddenly, he might find you sleeping. What I tell you, I [also] tell everyone: keep watch!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 3:4-23

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

When one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything: only God makes it grow.

Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor. Indeed, we are God's coworkers! You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he

builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person's work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone's work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone's work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.

Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will

destroy him because God's sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. As it is written, "He has taken the wise in their craftiness." And also, "The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless." Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:5-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong,

firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so

does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews,

publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,

and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 36:30, 31

*A Psalm of David.*

A righteous man's mouth will meditate wisdom,  
and his tongue speaks justice.

The law of his God is in his heart,  
and his steps will not slip.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 16:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus also said to his disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.'

The manager said within himself, 'What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' Calling each one of his lord's debtors to him, he said to the first, 'How

much do you owe to my lord?' The man replied, 'A hundred measures of oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' That one said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Whoever is faithful in a very little is

also faithful in much. Whoever is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you

with true riches? If you have not been faithful in what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## May 16 / d VRVbg 21 through May 18 / d VRVbg 23

May 16 / d VRVbg 21 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Marcian.

May 17 / d VRVbg 22 see December 27 (28) / h k VY1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Andronicus the Disciple

May 18 / d VRVbg 23 see April 25 / d Vf a cj i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. St. Junia the Disciple. St. Julian and his mother, the martyrs.

## May 19 / d VRVbg 24

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Entry of the Lord into the Land of Egypt  
Habakkuk the Prophet  
St. Bashnouna El-Makari the monk and martyr

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 105:23, 27

*A Psalm of David.*

Israel came into Egypt,  
and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.  
He placed the words of His signs in them,  
and His wonders in the land of Ham.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 4:12-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus heard that John Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he came had been arrested, he withdrew into and lived in Capernaum, which is by

the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through Isaias the prophet might be fulfilled:

*The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
toward the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles,*

*the people who sat in darkness saw a great light,  
to those who sat in the region and shadow of death,  
to them light has dawned.*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 105:21b, 22a, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

Who did great things in Egypt,  
wonderful things in the land of Ham,  
Remember us, O Lord, in Your love for Your people;  
visit us with Your salvation.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 12:15-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus, perceiving that, withdrew from that place. Many [people] followed him and he healed them all, commanding them not to reveal who he was, so that what was spoken through Isaias the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Behold, my servant whom I have chosen;*

*my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased:*

*I will put my Spirit on him.*

*He will proclaim justice to the nations.*

*He will not quarrel or shout;*

*No one will hear his voice in the streets.*

*He will not break a bruised reed,*

*He will not put out a smoking wick,  
until he leads justice to victory.*

*In his Name, the nations will hope*

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, "Can this be the son of David?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Ephesians 2:1-22

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called "uncircumcision" by what is called

"circumcision" (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary



in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God

in the Spirit.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:7-19

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father

has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:20-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three

months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was

thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: 'Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed

the Egyptian yesterday?' When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 105:36, 38

*A Psalm of David.*

He struck down every firstborn in their land,  
the first-fruits of all their labour.

Egypt was glad at their exodus,  
for fear of them fell upon them.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 2:13-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. They remained there until the death of Herod, so what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Out of Egypt I have called my son.*

When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.*

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was in Egypt, saying: "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and return the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill the young child's are dead."

Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel. However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene." *Glory be to God forever.*

May 20 / dVRVbg 25

See November 21 (22) / U \cf 25, page 126.

Annual tune. St. Colluthus of Antione the martyr. Ibrahim El-Gohari.

## May 21 / d VRVbg 26

Annual Tune  
St. Thomas the Apostle

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:12, 36ab

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord will give a word  
to those proclaiming the Gospel to a great company.  
God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 3:7-21

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, "You are the Son of God!" He sternly warned them that they should not make him known.

Jesus went up into the mountain and called to himself those he wanted

and they went to him. He appointed twelve to be with him, to send them out to preach, and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons. [They were:] Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, to whom he gave the name Boanerges which means 'Sons of Thunder'; Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thad-daeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who was to betray him.

Jesus went home again and again, the crowd assembled, so much that they could not even eat bread. When his own [friends] heard it, they came to take charge of him, saying, "He is insane!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 144:10b, 11, 12a

*A Psalm of David.*

Your saints [will] bless You.

They will tell of the glory of Your Kingdom,

and they will speak of Your power,

that all the sons of men may know Your power.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:12-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

It happened in these days, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night, in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve from among them, which he also named 'apostles': Simon, whom he also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor. He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power

came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate  
you,*

*and when they shall exclude and  
mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for  
the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in  
heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to  
the prophets.*

*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things alt-

hough you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you

now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We

heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from

them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the

temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers,

has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 18:2, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands  
Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.  
*Alleluia.*

### John 20:24-31

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

However, Thomas called 'the Twin', one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas replied, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and

put my hand into his side, I will not believe!"

After eight days, his disciples were inside once again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and he said, "Peace be with



you." Then, he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands! Place your hand here and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed!

Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed."

Now, Jesus accomplished many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. However, these ones are ritten, so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in his Name. *Glory be to God forever.*

## May 22 / d VRVbg 27 through May 26 / d Vk bY 1

May 22 / d VRVbg 27 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. John II, the 13<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandira. St. Lazarus, the Beloved of the Lord.

May 23 / d VRVbg 28 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. The relocation of the relics of St. Epiphanius.

May 24 / d VRVbg 29 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Stylite.

May 25 / d VRVbg 30 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Michael I, the 68<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Phorus the Disciple.

May 26 / d Vk bY 1 see December 27 (28) / h k VY1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Carpus the Disciple. Consecration of the Church of Sst. Leontius of Tripoli. St. Cosman and his companions, the martyrs. St. Epipam the soldier. St. Zikam the martyr.

## May 27 / d V k b Y 2

Annual Tune

Discovery of the Relics of St. John the Baptist  
St. John VIII, the 107<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 34:10a, 27cd

*A Psalm of David.*

All my bones will say, "O Lord, who is like You?"

Let those who [delight in Your salvation]

say continually, "let the Lord be magnified."

*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:18-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

John's disciples told the Baptist about all these things. John called two of his disciples and sent them to Jesus to ask, "Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?" When the men had come to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptizer has sent us to you, saying: 'Are you the one who is coming or should we look for another?'"

At that very time, Jesus had been healing many diseases, plagues and evil spirits; and had given sight to many who were blind. Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have Good News preached to them.

Blessed is he who is not offended by me!"

When John's messengers had departed, Jesus began to tell the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously dressed and live delicately are in kings' courts. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

*'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,*

*who will prepare your way before you.'*

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the

Baptizer; yet whoever is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 50:10, 21d

*A Psalm of David.*

You will make me hear joy and gladness;  
my bones that were humbled will rejoice.  
then they will offer calves on Your altar.  
*Alleluia.*

John 3:25-36a

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with some Jews about ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, behold, this one is [now] baptizing and everyone is coming to him!"

John answered, "No one can receive anything, unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom who stands [by] and hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so my

joy is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and from the earth he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all. What he has seen and heard is what he bears witness to, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted his testimony has set his seal [to this], that God is true. Indeed the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to

God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but

chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a

chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 13:25-33

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.' Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all

the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm:

*'You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.'*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:21, 16

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord will guard all [the] bones [of the righteous],  
not one of them will be broken.

[For] the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and His ears are open to their supplications.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 11:2-10

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when John heard about the works of Christ from his prison, he sent two of his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who comes or should we look for another?"

Jesus replied to them, "Go and tell John about the things you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have Good News preached to them. Blessed is he who finds no occasion for stumbling in me."

As they went their way, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes

concerning John; "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in king's houses! But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet! For he is the one of whom it is written:

*'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'*

*Glory be to God forever.*

**May 28 / d V k b Y 3 through May 31 / d V k b Y 6**

May 28 / d V k b Y 3 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Alladius the bishop and martyr. Anba Abraam the bishop pof Fayum. St. Cosmas, the 44<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecration of the Church of St. George in the city of Burma. St. Martha the Egyptian.

May 29 / d Vk bY 4 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. St. Shenousi the martyr. Sts. Abamoun and Sophia the martyrs. St. John of Heraclia the martyr. St. Apahor the martyr. St. John VIII, the 8<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 30 / d Vk bY 5 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

Annual tune. St. James the Confessor. Sts. Pishoy and Peter ,the martyrs. Consecraiton of the Church of St. Victor.

May 31 / d Vk bY 6 see July 14 / XeZe 20, page 361.

Annual tune. St. Theodore the monk and martyr. St. Dydimus the Dean of the Catechetical School of Alexandria.

## June or d Vk bY

### June 1 / d Vk bY 7 through June 9 / d Vk bY 15

June 1 / d Vk bY 7 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. St. Episkhairon the martyr.

June 2 / d Vk bY 8 see May 19 / d VRVbg 24, page 310.

Annual tune. Dedication of the Church of the All-Holy and Blessed Virgin. Sts. Amanda and her children, the martyrs. St. George the new martyr.

June 3 / d Vk bY 9 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual Tune. Samuel the Prophet. St. Lucilianus the martyr. Translocation of the relics of St. Mercurius to Egypt.

June 4 / d Vk bY 10 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual Tune. St. Eudaemon the martyr. The closure of all Pagan temples by Constantine. St. John XVI, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The Ordination of St. Demetrius II as the 111<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 5 / d Vk bY 11 see April 22 / d Vf a cj i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Cladius Stratelates the martyr. Consecration of the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Alexandria.

June 6 / d Vk bY 12 see November 8 (9) / U \cf 12, page 98.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of Archangel Michael. St. Justis, the 7<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Cyril II, the 67<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Euphemia.

June 7 / d Vk bY 13 see August 26 / ^cj T] bVbi 3, page 417.

Annual Tune. Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel. St. John, the bishop of Jerusalem.

June 8 / d Vk bY 14 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. John XIX, the 113<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Apakir, John, Ptolemy and Philip the martyrs.

June 9 / d Vk bY 15 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist during the tenth year of St. Cyril VI. Consecration of the Church of Abba Menas at Maryut.



## June 10 / d V k b Y 16

Annual Tune  
St. Onuphrius (Abba Nofer)

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 111:6b, 7a, 3b, 9c

*A Psalm of David.*

A righteous person will be in everlasting remembrance.  
He will not be afraid of evil tidings,  
and his righteousness endures unto ages of ages;  
his horn will be exalted with glory.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 24:42-47

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Watch therefore, for you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be ready, for it is at

an hour which you do not expect that the Son of Man will come.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing so when he comes. Amen, I tell you that he will set him over all that he has.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 91:11, 15, 16a

*A Psalm of David.*

You give me the strength of a rhinoceros,  
and finest oil to refresh my old age.  
They will still bear fruit in a ripe old age,  
and will be prospering  
so as to proclaim, "the Lord my God is upright."  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 19:11-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As the people heard these things, he went on to tell [them] a parable because he was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God would be revealed immediately. He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. So he called ten of his slave and gave them ten mina coins, and told them, 'Trade [with these] until I come.' But his subjects hated him, and they sent a delegation after him, to say: 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

It so happened that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom,

that he commanded these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, so that he might know what they had earned by conducting business. The first came before him, saying: 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas!'

The king said to him, 'Well done, you good servant! Because you were found faithful with very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

The second came, saying: 'Your mina, Lord, has made five minas!'

And so, the king said to him, 'And you are to be set over five cities.' *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Hebrews 11:32-12:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliver-

ance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the

promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles

us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:9-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the

Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 91:13, 14

*A Psalm of David.*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,  
and will increase like a cedar in Lebanon.  
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord  
will flourish in the courts of our God.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 12:32-44

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves purses which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief can reach and where moth cannot destroy. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps burning. Be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes. Amen, I tell you: he will dress himself [to serve], make them recline, and he will come to serve them! They will be blessed if the

master comes in the second or third watch, and finds them doing so. But know this, that if the master of the house had known when the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be ready also, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour when you do not expect him."

Peter said to him, "Lord, are you telling this parable [only] to us, or to everyone?"

The Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and wise steward whom his master will set over his household to give [his people] their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his lord will find doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will set this servant over all that he has. *Glory be to God forever.*

## June 11 / d Vk bY 17 through June 23 / d Vk bY 29

June 11 / d Vk bY 17 After A.D. 1968 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

Annual tune. Return of the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist in A.D. 1968. St. Latsoun the monk.

June 12 / d Vk bY 18 see November 25 (26) / U \cf 29, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Damian, the 35<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexanria. Inauguration of the New Cathedral fo St. Mark in the Monastery of Anba Reweiss.

June 13 / d Vk bY 19 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. Placement of the relics of St. Mark in the Cathedral of Alexandria in 1968. St. Archelaus the 18<sup>th</sup> Patriach of Alexandria. St. Geroge the New Martyr. St. Bishai Anoub.

June 14 / d Vk bY 20 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Elisha the prophet.

June 15 / d Vk bY 21 see April 26 / d VRVbg 1, page 292.

Annual tune. Dedication of the first Church for the All-holy and Blessed Virgin in Phillipi. St. Timothy of Memphis the martyr. St. Cedron, the 4<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 16 / d Vk bY 22 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Concecraiton of the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damina, their mother and their brothers.

June 17 / d Vk bY 23 see January 17 (18) / h k VY22, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Apanoub the Confessor.

June 18 / d Vk bY 24 see July 27 / ` Ygcf Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. The Strong St. Moses.

June 19 / d Vk bY 25 see December 27 (28) / h k VY1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Jude the Apostle and martyr. St. Peter IV, the 34<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 20 / d Vk bY 26 see see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17. (Kitchener previously had Tobi 1)

Annual tune. Joshua the Prophet. Consecration of the Church of Archangel Gabriel in Fayoum.

June 21 / d Vk bY 27 see April 25 / d Vf a cj i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. St. Ananias the Disciple and martyr. St. Thomas of Shentalet.

June 22 / d Vk bY 28 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Theodosius, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecraiton of the Church of Abba Sarapamon the martyr, the bishop of Nikios.

June 23 / d Vvk bY 29 see May 15 / d VRVbg 20, page 305.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Commemoration of the Seven Ascetic Martyrs of Mount Tounar. Sts. Abba Hor, Pishai, and their mother, Theodora, the martyrs.

## June 24 / d Vvk bY 30

Annual Tune  
Nativity of St. John the Baptist

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 51:10, 11cd

*A Psalm of David.*

But I am like a fruitful olive tree  
in the house of God;  
I will wait on Your Name,  
for it is good in the sight of Your saints.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:28-35

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptizer; yet whoever is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just since they had been baptized with John's baptism. However, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose, not being baptized by him themselves.

But the Lord said, "to what, then, can I compare the people of this

generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and who call one another, saying: 'We played the pipes to you, and you did not dance! We mourned, and you did not weep!' For John the Baptizer came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard; a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet Wisdom is justified by all her children." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 91:11, 15, 16a

*A Psalm of David.*

You give me the strength of a rhinoceros,  
and finest oil to refresh my old age.  
They will still bear fruit in a ripe old age,  
and will be prospering  
so as to proclaim, "the Lord my God is upright."  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 11:11-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Amen, I tell you: among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer! Yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John [came]. If you are willing to accept it, this [John] is Elias who was to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call to their friends and say, 'We played the flute for you and you did not dance. We mourned for you and you did not lament!' As it is, John came neither eating nor drinking, and so they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and so they say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But Wisdom is justified by her children." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through

faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire,



escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All

of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do

evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:8-22

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into

Egypt where he died, along with our fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 91:13, 14

*A Psalm of David.*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,  
and will increase like a cedar in Lebanon.  
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord  
will flourish in the courts of our God.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 1:57-80

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, the time when Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and they wanted to name him Zacharias after his father. But his mother answered, "It shall not be! Instead, he will be called John!"

They said to her, "But there is no one among your relatives who is called by this name!" They made signs to his father so see what he wanted to have his son called.

Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

They were all very surprised. Suddenly, his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He began to speak, blessing God. Awe came upon all

who lived around them, and people talked about these sayings throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All those who heard these things took them to heart and exclaimed, "What then will this child be?" The hand of the Lord was with him.

His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,*

*for he has visited and worked redemption for his people;*

*and has raised up a horn of salvation for us*

*in the house of his servant David*

*(as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been from of old),*

*salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;*

*to show mercy towards our fathers,  
to remember his holy covenant,*

*the oath which he spoke to Abraham, our father,*

*to grant to us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,*

*should offer him divine service without fear,*

*In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.*

*And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,*

*for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways,*

*to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins,*

*because of the tender mercy of our God,*

*by which the dawn from on high will visit us,*

*to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;*

*to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

The child was growing up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel. *Glory be to God forever.*

## June 25 / XeZe 1 through June 26 / XeZe 2

June 25 / XeZe 1 see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Febronia the martyr. Sts. Bioukha and Benjamin, the presbyters.

June 26 / XeZe 2 see April 25 / d Vf a cj i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. St. Thaddeaus the Apostle.

## June 27 / XeZe 3

Annual Tune

Abba Cyril the Great

St. Celestine the Patriarch of rome

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 109:4, 5a, 7b

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,

*"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek."*

The Lord at Your right hand,  
therefore, He will raise [the] head high.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 16:13-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus then said to them, "But [you], who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 72:23b, 24, 28

*A Psalm of David.*

You seized my right hand.  
You guided me with Your counsel,  
and received me with glory.  
But for me, it is good to cling to God,  
to put my hope in the Lord,  
that I may declare all Your praises  
in the gates of the daughter of Zion.

*Alleluia.*

### John 15:17-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

I command these things to you, so that you may love one another.

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated

you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own! But you are not of the world, since I chose you out of the world, and so the world

hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But they will do all these things to you on account of my Name, because they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin!

Whoever hates me also hates my Father. If I had not accomplished among them the works which no one else had done [before], they would not have had sin. But now, they have seen [those things] and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this has happened so that the word which was written in their law may be fulfilled: 'They hated me without reason.' *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 4:5-5:11

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may

be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which

are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is certain that we groan in this [tent], longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling; so that being clothed we will not be found naked. We who are in this tent are truly groaning as we are burdened; but it is not that we desire to be unclothed; rather, we desire to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now, the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also gave us the pledge of the Spirit.

Therefore, we are always confident and know that while we are at

home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight. I dare say that we are courageous and that we would rather be absent from the body and at home with the Lord. And so, we make this our aim: that whether at home or absent, we would be well-pleasing to him. For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what was done in the body; good or evil.

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:18-3:7

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example

so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, "neither was deceit found in his mouth" and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and 'by his stripes you were healed'. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but

now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how

the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord". You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint-heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 20:17-38

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the presbyters of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. I served the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews. I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house. To both Jews and to Greek, I bore witness to repentance before God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Now,

behold, I go to Jerusalem bound by the Spirit. I do not know what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. But these things do not count, and I do not hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy and [fulfill] the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you



today that I am clean from the blood of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch over yourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to

build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver, or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive!'"

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 106:32

*A Psalm of David.*

Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people,  
and praise Him in the session of elders.  
[For He has] made his families like a flock [of sheep].  
The righteous will see it and be glad.  
*Alleluia.*

### John 10:1-16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

"Amen, amen, I tell you; he who does not enter by the gate into the sheep fold, but climbs up some other way is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will by no means follow a stranger but flee from him because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

Jesus therefore said to them again, "Amen, amen, I tell you; I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate! Anyone who

enters in by me will be saved, and go in and out, and will find pasture. The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that people may have life, and have it in abundance. I am the good shepherd! The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The one who is a hired hand, not a shepherd, and who does not own the sheep, leaves the sheep and flees when he sees the wolf coming. Then the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand and does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd! I know my own, and I am known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. And there will be one flock—one shepherd. *Glory be to God forever.*

## June 28 / XeZe 4

See November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of Sts. Apakir and John.

## June 29 / XeZe 5

Annual Tune  
The Apostles' Feast  
Sts. Theodosia and her Companions

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:12, 36ab

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord will give a word  
to those proclaiming the Gospel to a great company.  
God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
*Alleluia.*

Mark 3:7-21

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, "You are the Son of God!" He sternly warned them that they should not make him known.

Jesus went up into the mountain and called to himself those he wanted and they went to him. He appointed twelve to be with him, to send them out to preach, and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons. [They were:] Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, to whom he gave the name Boanerges which means 'Sons of Thunder'; Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thad-daeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who was to betray him.

Jesus went home again and again, the crowd assembled, so much that they could not even eat bread. When his own [friends] heard it, they came

to take charge of him, saying, "He is insane!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Prophecies of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

### Exodus 15:22-16:1a

*From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. Then the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him and said, "If you diligently heed the voice

of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you."

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Exodus 30:17-30

*Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of testimony and the altar. You shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet with water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of testimony, they shall wash with water, lest they die, or when they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the

Lord. So they shall wash their hands and feet with water when they go into the tabernacle of testimony, lest they die. It shall be an ordinance forever to them—for him and his genealogy after him."

Furthermore the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Also take for yourself aromatic spices, the flower of costly myrrh—five hundred shekels' worth—and fragrant cinnamon—half as much, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty shekels of

sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. You shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of testimony and the ark of the tabernacle of testimony; and the table and all its utensils, the

lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; and the altar of whole burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall sanctify them so they may be most holy; whatever touches them will be holy. You shall anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may minister to Me as priests.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 1:16-26

*From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix

wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: "Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 35:1-10

*Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. Be comforted, you fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become

meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 43:16-44:6

*And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: "Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old. Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall

know them; and I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you

grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach."

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus

says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: "You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, 'I am God's,' and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, 'I am God's,' and call himself by the name of Israel."

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: "I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Zecharias 8:7-19

*From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.'

"Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the

time the temple was built. For before those days, men's wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,' says the Lord Almighty. 'Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as

an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.'

"For thus says the Lord Almighty: 'As I purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked Me to anger,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I did not relent, so now in these days I have prepared and purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; be of good courage. These are the things you shall do: speak the truth,

each man to his neighbor, and judge with peaceful judgment in your gates, and let none of you plan evil in his heart against his neighbor, and do not love a false oath, for all these things I hate,' says the Lord Almighty."

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.'

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Zecharias 14:8-11

*Again from the book of Zercharais the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon

south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king's winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

#### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefa-

thers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were



all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of

them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Gospel of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

### Psalm 50:9

*A Psalm of David.*

You will sprinkle me with hyssop,  
and I will be cleansed;  
You will wash me,  
and I will be whiter than snow.

[You will] create a clean heart in me, O God,  
and renew an upright spirit within me.

*Alleluia.*

### John 5:1-18

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After these things, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem, by the sheep gate, there is a pool with five porches called in Hebrew "Bethesda". Under these laid a great multitude of people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at certain times into the pool, and stirred up the water. Then whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made whole of whatever disease he had. A certain man was there, who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that the man had been sick for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man replied, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, someone else steps down before me!"

Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your mat, and walk!"

Immediately, the man was made well; he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now, it was the Sabbath on that day. And so, the Jews said to the man

who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath! It is not lawful for you to carry the mat!"

The man answered them, "He who made me well, that one said to me, 'Take up your mat, and walk.'"

Then they asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your mat, and walk'?"

But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn in the crowd that was there.

Later, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well. Sin no more, so that nothing worse may happen to you!"

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him because he did these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I am also working." Because of this, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, not only because he broke the Sabbath, but also because he called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 144:10b, 11, 12a

*A Psalm of David.*

Your saints [will] bless You.

They will tell of the glory of Your Kingdom,

and they will speak of Your power,

that all the sons of men may know Your power.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:12-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

It happened in these days, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night, in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve from among them, which he also named 'apostles': Simon, whom he also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor. He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power

came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.*

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

*Blessed are you when men shall hate  
you,*

*and when they shall exclude and  
mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for  
the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in  
heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to  
the prophets.*

*Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things alt-

hough you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you

now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We

heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from

them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the

temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers,

has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 18:2,

*A Psalm of David.*

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.  
Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:1-15

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He called to himself his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. The names of the Twelve apostles are: first, Simon, who is called Peter; Andrew, his brother;

James the son of Zebedee; John, his brother; Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Jesus sent these twelve out, and gave them this instruction, "Do not go among the Gentiles and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans. Rather, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, preach and say: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you have received, give freely as well. Do not take any gold, silver or brass in your money belts. Do not take a bag for your journey, or two coats, or shoes, or staff: the one who works is worthy of his food. As you enter any

city or village, find out who is worthy and stay there until you go on. As you enter into the household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If some place does not receive you and does not hear your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you depart from that house or that city. Amen, I tell you: in the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that city. *Glory be to God forever.*

## June 30 / XeZe 6

See December 27 (28) / h k V1, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Olympus the Disciple. St. Theodosia na dher companions, the martyrs.

## July or XeZe

### July 1 / XeZe 7 through July 13 / XeZe 19

July 1 / XeZe 7 see January 27 (28) / ` R]f 2, page 247.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the Archimandrite. St. Ignatius the bishop of Rome, the martyr.

July 2 / XeZe 8 see October 24 (25) / d V k e Y 27, page 81.

Annual tune. St. Pishoi. Sts. Piroou and Athom. St. Balanah the presbyter. St. Pimanon. St. Cyrus (Karas), the brother of Emperor Theodosius.

July 3 / XeZe 9 see April 25 / d V f a c j i Y 30, page 286.

Annual tune. St. Simon Cleophas the Disciple and martyr. St. Cleadion, the 9<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 4 / XeZe 10 see November 24 (25) / U \ c f 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Theodore, the bishop of Pentapolis, the martyr. St. Theodore, the bishop of Corinth, the martyr. St. Gabriel VII, the 9<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 5 / XeZe 11 see April 22 / d V f a c j i Y 27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. John and his cousin, Simon. St. Isaiah the hermit.

July 6 / XeZe 12 see November 11 (12) / U \ c f 15, page 105.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. Abba Hor the martyr.

July 7 / XeZe 13 see November 24 (25) / U \ c f 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Pisentius the bishop of Kift. St. Apamon of touch, the martyr. Abba Shenouti the new martyr.

July 8 / XeZe 14 see October 24 (25) / d V k e Y 27, page 81.

Annual tune. St. Macarius of Alexandria. St. Pocopius of Jerusalem, the martyr. St Peter V, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 9 / XeZe 15 see July 27 / ` Y g c f Z 3, page 366.

Annual tune. St. Ephriam the Syrian.

July 10 / XeZe 16 see December 30 (31) / h k V Y 4, page 191.

Annual tune. St. John of the Golden Gospel. Recovery of the relics of St. George the mew martyr.

July 11 / XeZe 17 see January 25 (26) / h k V Y 30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Euphemia the martyr.

July 12 / XeZe 18 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.



Annual tune. St James the brother of the Lord, the bishop of Jerusalem.

July 13 / XeZe 19 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. St. Bidaba the bishop of Kift the martyr. St. Pantalemon the physician and martyr. St. John X, the 85<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## July 14 / XeZe 20

Annual Tune

St. Theodore Strathelatis the Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 17:35, 40

*A Psalm of David.*

[He] trains my hands for war;  
and You made my arms like a bronze bow.  
You have girded me with strength for battle,  
and have subdued under me all who rose against me.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 10:16-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves! Therefore, be wise as serpents, and yet innocent as doves. But beware of men: they will hand you over to councils and in their synagogues, they will flog you. Yes, you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as witnesses to them and to the nations. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what you will say; what you will say will be given you in that hour. Indeed, it is not you who [shall] speak, but the

Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. Nevertheless, when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next. Amen, I tell you: you will not have finished going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 44:4, 5a, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One,  
in Your splendor and beauty.  
Draw Your bow, and prosper, and reign  
Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;  
the sceptre of Your Kingdom is a sceptre of justice.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 7:11-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a city called Nain. Many of his disciples, along with a great multitude, went with him. Now, when Jesus drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a dead person was being carried out, who was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said to her, "Do not cry." He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He then

said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. Jesus then gave him to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited his people!" This news concerning Jesus spread throughout Judea and in all the surrounding countryside. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 2:3-15

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone

who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said,

and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God's word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;*

*but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 27:42-28:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The soldiers' advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a

bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live." However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed. Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 90:13, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

You will tread upon the asp and the basilisk,  
you will trample the lion and the dragon underfoot.  
for He will command His Angels  
to guard you in all your ways.  
*Alleluia.*

## Luke 10:21-24

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight."

Turning to the disciples, he said, "All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who

the Father is, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Turning to the disciples, Jesus said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but they did not see them; and to hear what you hear, but they did not hear them." *Glory be to God forever.*

## July 15 / XeZe 21 through July 26 / ` YgcfZ 2

July 15 / XeZe 21 see March 9 / dVfa Sci e 13, page 262.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Sosenius the eunuch.

July 16 / XeZe 22 see April 22 / dVfa cj i Y27, page 281.

Annual tune. St. Macarius the martyr. St. Leontius of Tripoli the martyr.

July 17 / XeZe 23 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

Annual tune. St. Longinus the martyr. St. Marina the martyr.

July 18 / XeZe 24 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. St. Apanoub the martyr. St. Simeon I, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Isidore.

July 19 / XeZe 25 see November 21 (22) / U \cf 25, page 126.

Annual tune. St. Anthony the martyr. St. Hilaria. St. Domatius the Syrian martyr. Abba Isaac the martyr. Sts. Thecla and Mouji the martyrs. St. Apakragon the martyr. St. Palamon the father of the monks. St. Thecla. The Consecraiton of the Church of St. Mercurius.

July 20 / XeZe 26 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. St. Joseph the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 20 / XeZe 26 After A.D. 2014 see May 19 / dVRVbg24, page 310.

July 27 / ˘ Ygcf Z 3

Annual tune. St. Joseph the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 21 / XeZe 27 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. St. Apamon the martyr. Consecration of the church of Abba Fam. Sts. Boushra and Emad the martyrs.

July 22 / XeZe 28 see January 25 (26) / h k W 30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Mary Magdalene.

July 23 / XeZe 29 see June 29 / XeZe 5, page 347.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Translocation of the relics of St. Andrew the Apostle. St. Ourshenoufa the martyr.

July 24 / XeZe 30 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. Sst. Mercurius and Ephraem the martyrs.

July 25 / ˘ Ygcf Z 1 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. St. Apoli, son of Justus, son of Emperor Nomerius, the martyrs. St. Cyril V, the 112<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 26 / ˘ Ygcf Z 2 see January 25 (26) / h k W 30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Paesa.

## July 27 / ˘ Ygcf Z 3

Annual Tune

Translocation of the relics of St. Simon the Stylite  
St Abramius, the 5<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 39:3c, 4ab

*A Psalm of David.*

He has set my feet on a rock, and has directed my steps.  
And He has put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn to our God.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 7:22-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Many will tell me in that Day, 'Lord, Lord, did not we prophesy in your Name, cast out demons in your Name and do many deeds of power in your Name?' Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you! Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'

Everyone therefore who hears my words and does them, I will compare with a wise person who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, beating hard on that house. Yet, it did not collapse, because it was founded on the rock. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 88:25, 20

*A Psalm of David.*

My truth and My mercy will be with him,  
and in My Name he will be raised to power .  
Then You spoke to Your saints in a vision  
and say, "I have laid help upon a mighty one."  
*Alleluia.*

#### Luke 13:23-30

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Someone asked him, "Lord, are those who are saved [only] a few?" Jesus replied, "Do your utmost to enter in by the narrow door! For I tell you that many will try to enter, but they will not be able. Once the master of the house has risen up and shut the door, you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying: 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But then, he will answer, 'I do not know you or where you come from!' Then you will start saying, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets!' But the master will reply, 'I

tell you, I do not know where you come from! Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.' In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. People will come from the east, west, north, and south, and they will have a place in the Kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I could not speak to you as to spiritual persons, but as to carnal ones - infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat, because you were not yet ready. Indeed, you are not even ready now because you are still carnal. As long as there is jealousy, strife, and factions among you, are you not carnal, walking according to human ways? When one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is

Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything; only God makes it grow. Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous

promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to



the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will

never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:13-29

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from

the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

"The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: 'You must be circumcised and keep the law', although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with

one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and

to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 60:2, 3c, 4abc

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear my supplication, O God;  
attend to my prayer.

You lifted me high on a rock.

You guided me,  
for You became my hope,  
a tower of strength.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 14:25-35

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Great crowds were now traveling with him. He turned and said to them, "Anyone who comes to me and does not disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost,

to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying: 'This man began to build and he was not able to finish!' Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with

twenty thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Salt is good, but if it becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile and it is thrown out! Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## July 28 / ` YgcfZ 4 through July 31 / ` YgcfZ 7

July 28 / ` YgcfZ 4 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual Tune. Ezekieh the King. Consecration of the church of St. Anthony.

July 29 / ` YgcfZ 5 see January 21 (22) / h k VV26, page 237.

Annual tune. St. John the soldier and martyr.

July 30 / ` YgcfZ 6 see January 25 (26) / h k VV30, page 242.

Annual tune. St. Julietta the martyr.

July 31 / ` YgcfZ 7 see September 23 (24) / [ ccj i 26, page 57.

Annual tune. Annunciation nativity of the Theotokos to Joachim. St. Timothy II, the 26<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## August or ` Ygcf Z and ^ cj T] bVbi (The Little Month)

### August 1 / ` Ygcf Z 8 through August 5 / ` Ygcf Z 12

August 1 / ` Ygcf Z 8 see May 5 / d VRVbg 10, page 299.

Annual tune. Sts. Lazarus, Salmi, his wife, and their children, the martyrs. The confession of St. Peter the Apostle.

August 2 / ` Ygcf Z 9 see November 11 (12) / U \cf 15, page 105.

Annual tune. St. Ari the presbyter and martyr.

August 3 / ` Ygcf Z 10 see November 23 (24) / U \cf 27, page 132.

Annual tune. St. Matra the martyr. St. Pigebus the martyr.

August 4 / ` Ygcf Z 11 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Moses the bishop of Ousim.

August 5 / ` Ygcf Z 12 see September 14 (15) / [ ccj i 17, page 28.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. The regin of Emeror Constantine.

### August 6 / ` Ygcf Z 13

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 98:6, 7a

*A Psalm of David.*

Moses and Aaron are among His priests,  
and Samuel is among those who call on His Name;  
they called upon the Lord, and He heard them.

He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:28-36

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

About eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became white and dazzling. And behold, two men were talking with him, who were Moses and Elias. They appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Now, Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. As Moses and Elias were

departing from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias". He did not know what he was saying.

While Peter was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent and told no one in those days of what they had seen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 103:31, 32

*A Psalm of David.*

Let the glory of the Lord be forever;  
the Lord will be glad in His works—  
He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble;  
He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 17:1-9

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and he brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. [There], he was transfigured before them. His

face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elias appeared to them, talking with him.

Peter then said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you want, let us make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

While Peter was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were very afraid. Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up, and do not be afraid." Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this order, "Do not tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Colossians 1:1-23

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we always pray for you. We have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and about the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope which is prepared for you in heaven. Of this hope you have heard before in the word of the truth of the Good News which has come to you; even as it is [spreading] in the whole world. It has been bearing fruit and growing [everywhere], as it has done in you too since the day you heard and experienced the grace of God in truth. This is what you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-

servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf. He has informed us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard this, we do not cease praying and making requests for you, so that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We also pray that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy! May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our

redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile

all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you

about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star

arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will:

holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:44-8:1a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*'Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord;*

*'or what is the place of my rest?*

*Did not my hand make all these things?'*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Then, they shouted with a loud voice, blocking their ears, and rushed at him with one accord. So they threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen,



he called in prayer, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 86:1, 2a, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

His foundations are on the holy mountains;  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
A man will say, "Mother Zion,"  
and, "a man was born in her,"  
for the Most High Himself has founded her.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 9:2-13

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up to a high mountain in private, by themselves. [There], he was transfigured in front of them. His clothing became radiant, extremely white like snow, such as no launderer on earth could whiten them. Elias and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus.

Peter told Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias." He did not know what to say, for they were very afraid.

A cloud came which overshadowed them and a voice came out of

the cloud, "This is my beloved Son! Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they saw no one with them any more, except Jesus only.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen, until after the Son of Man would have risen from the dead. They kept this saying to themselves, wondering what "rising from the dead" meant.

They asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elias must come first?"

Jesus answered, "Indeed, Elias comes first and restores all things.

Why then is it written about the Son of Man that he must suffer many things and be despised? But I tell you that Elias has [already] come, and

they have also done to him whatever they wanted to, even as it is written about him." *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 7 / ` Ygcf Z 14 through August 9 / ` Ygcf Z 16

August 7 / ` Ygcf Z 14 see November 13 (14) / U \cf 17, page 110.

Annual tune. A miracle at Alexandria in the time of Abba Thjeophilus, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 8 / ` Ygcf Z 15 see January 25 (26) / h k VY30, page 242.

Annual utne. St. Marina the ascetic.

August 9 / ` Ygcf Z 16 see April 26 / d VRVbg 1, page 292.

Annual tune. The Assumption of the Theotokos. St. Matthias IV, the 102 Patriarch of Alexandria.

## August 10 / ` Ygcf Z 17

Annual Tune  
St. Jacob the Soldier and Martyr

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 33:20, 21

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver them from all of them.

The Lord will guard all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 1:16-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Passing along by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further from there, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in a boat, mending the

nets. At once, he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and they began to follow him. They went into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath day, Jesus entered into the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching because he taught them as having authority, not as the scribes.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 36:39, 40ac

*A Psalm of David.*

The deliverance of the righteous is from the Lord,  
and He is their protector in time of affliction;  
the Lord will help them and deliver them;  
He will... save them, because they hope in Him.

*Alleluia.*

#### Matthew 4:18-22

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea as they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fish for people!"

Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on from

there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once, they left the boat and their father, and followed him. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Galatians 1:1-19

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different "Good News" - and there is no other "Good News"! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any "Good News" that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other "Good News" than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother'.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen

to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of  
David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after  
the Lord;  
All the Gentiles who are called by  
my Name,  
Says the Lord, who does all these  
things.  
All his works are known to God  
from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light has dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 10:35-45

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we will ask!"

He replied, "What do you want me to do for you?"

They answered, "Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand, and one at your left hand, in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They replied, "We are able!"

Jesus said to them, "You shall indeed drink the cup that I drink, and you shall be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with!"

However, to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became upset with James and John.

Jesus called them, and told them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the nations lord it over them, and their great ones

exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you! Whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever of you wants to become first among you shall be slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 11 / ˘ Ygcf Z 18 through August 17 / ˘ Ygcf Z 24

August 11 / ˘ Ygcf Z 18 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople. St. Eudaemon the martyr.

August 12 / ˘ Ygcf Z 19 see October 24 (25) / d Vk eY 27, page 81.

Annual tune. Translocatin of the relics of St. Macarius to his monastery in Scetis (Sheheet).

August 13 / ˘ Ygcf Z 20 see November 18 (19) / U \cf 22, page 117.

Annual tune. The Seven Holy Youths, the martyrs of Ephesus.

August 14 / ˘ Ygcf Z 21 see January 25 (26) / h k VY 30, page 242.

Annual Tune. The monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Irene.

August 15 / ˘ Ygcf Z 22 see September 5 (6) / [ ccj i 8, page 17.

Annual tune. Michah the Prophet. St. Hadid the martyr.

August 16 / ˘ Ygcf Z 23 see April 18 / d Vf a cj i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. The 30,000 martyrs of Alexandria during the reign of Marcian. St. Damian the martyr in Antioch.

August 17 / ˘ Ygcf Z 24 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Thecla Hemanoute, the Ethiopian. St. Thomas, bishop of Marsh.

## August 18 / ~ Ygcf Z 25

Annual Tune

St. Besarion the Great, the first disciple of St. Anthony  
St. Macarius III the 114<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:2

*A Psalm of David.*

My soul longs for You, O God,  
as the deer longs for springs of water.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 25:14-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own servants and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately, the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. In the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. But the servant who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came

forward and brought another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

The lord said to the servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

The lord said to this servant, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!' *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 33:6, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

Come to Him and be enlightened,  
and your faces will never be ashamed.

The Angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear Him,  
and He will deliver them.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 19:11-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

As the people heard these things, he went on to tell [them] a parable because he was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God would be revealed immediately. He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. So he called ten of his slaves and gave them ten mina coins, and told them, 'Trade [with these] until I come.' But his subjects hated him, and they sent a delegation after him, to say: 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

It so happened that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom,

that he commanded these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, so that he might know what they had earned by conducting business. The first came before him, saying: 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas!'

The king said to him, 'Well done, you good servant! Because you were found faithful with very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

The second came, saying: 'Your mina, Lord, has made five minas!'

And so, the king said to him, 'And you are to be set over five cities.' *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Philippians 3:20-4:9

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change

the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by

which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition

with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:9-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 103:1bc, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord my God, You are exceedingly magnified.  
You are clothed with confession and splendor,  
wrapping Yourself in light for a garment,  
Who makes spirits His Angels,  
and His ministers flames of fire.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 12:32-44

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves purses which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief can reach and where moth cannot destroy. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps burning. Be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes. Amen, I tell you: he will dress himself [to serve], make them recline, and he will come to serve them! They will be blessed if the

master comes in the second or third watch, and finds them doing so. But know this, that if the master of the house had known when the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be ready also, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour when you do not expect him."

Peter said to him, "Lord, are you telling this parable [only] to us, or to everyone?"

The Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and wise steward whom his master will set over his household to give [his people] their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his lord will find doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will set this servant over all that he has. *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 19 / ` Ygcf Z 26

Annual Tune

St. Moses and his sister Sarah, the Martyrs  
St. Agabius the soldier, and Thecla his sister, the Martyrs

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 30:24, 20ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,  
for the Lord requires truth,  
How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,  
which You have hidden for those who fear You.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:24-33

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! Therefore, do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and nothing hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who [can] kill the body but are not able to kill the soul.

Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Not one of them falls on the ground apart from your Father's will, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows! Whoever confesses me before men I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 144:10b, 5b, 11b, 20a, 21a

*A Psalm of David.*

Your saints [will] bless You,  
and they will recount Your wonders,  
and they will speak of Your power,  
He will do the will of those who fear Him,  
The Lord keeps all who love Him.  
*Alleluia.*

John 12:20-26

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, among those that went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. They came to Philip who was from Bethsaida of Galilee and asked him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn, Andrew came with Philip and they told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I tell you; unless a grain of

wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit! The one who loves his life will lose it. The one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. Anyone who serves me must follow me! Where I am, there will my servant also be. The Father will honor anyone who serve me. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:14-27

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God;

and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As

it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope,

but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do

evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:11-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them

such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 149:5, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

The saints will boast in glory,  
And they will rejoice on their beds.  
To execute the written judgment among them:  
This glory is for all His saints.  
*Alleluia.*



## Luke 21:12-19

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my Name's sake. It will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and

wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or contradict. You will be handed over even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will acquire your lives. *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 20 / ` Ygcf Z 27

See April 18 / d Vf a c j i Y 23, page 276.

Annual tune. Sts. Benjamin and Eudoxia the martyrs. St. Mary the Armenian, the martyr.

## August 21 / ` Ygcf Z 28

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

### Psalm 46:9, 10

*A Psalm of David.*

God reigns over the nations;

God is seated on His holy throne.

Rulers of peoples gather together

With the God of Abraham,

for God's mighty ones of the earth  
are greatly exalted.

*Alleluia.*

John 15:7-16

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

If you remain in me and if my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you desire and it will be done for you.

In this is my Father glorified: that you bear much fruit; and [this is how] you will be my disciples. Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you! Remain in my love! If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: that you love one another, even as I have

loved you. No one has a greater love than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what his lord is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, so that you should go and bear fruit, and so that your fruit should remain. And so, whatever you will ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 104:3b, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Seek the Lord and be strengthened;

continually seek His face

[and walk after Him.]

*Alleluia.*

Luke 16:19-31

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A

certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs

that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.'

But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is

fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.'

He said, 'I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!'

But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 11:1-10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and

although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved

with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By

faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 2:14-23

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works!" Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and

they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness" was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:20-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: 'Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: 'Who

made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 104:8b, 9, 10

*A Psalm of David.*

The word He commanded for a thousand generations,  
[the covenant] which He established with Abraham,  
and His oath to Isaac;  
and He established it with Jacob as an ordinance,  
and with Israel as an everlasting covenant.

*Alleluia.*

## Mark 12:18-27

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to him. They asked him, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us, 'If a man's brother dies, leaving a wife behind him but no children, his brother should take his wife, and raise up an offspring for his brother.' There were seven brothers. The first took a wife, died, and left no offspring. The second [brother] took her and [also] died, leaving no children behind him. The third likewise; and so the seven [brothers] married her and left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For the seven [brothers] had her as a wife."

Jesus answered them, "Is this not why you are mistaken, by not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God? For when people {will} rise from the dead, they do not marry or are given in marriage; instead, they are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead are raised, have not you read in the book of Moses (in the passage about the Bush), how God spoke to him, saying: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living! This is why you are greatly misled." *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 22 / ` Ygcf Z 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection  
Sts. Athanasius the bishop, Gerasimus, and Theodotus, the Martyrs  
Arrival of the relics of St. John the Short to Scetis (Sheheet) in 515 A.D.

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 191:9, 10a, 17b, 18b

*A Psalm of David.*

Your priests will be clothed with righteousness;  
Your saints will rejoice  
for Your servant David's sake.  
I have prepared a lamp for my Christ,  
[and] upon Him my holiness will blossom.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 15:1-11

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Pharisees and scribes then came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying: "Why do your disciples disobey the tradition of the presbyters? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

Jesus answered them, "Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever may tell his father or his mother, "Whatever support you might otherwise have received from me is now a gift devoted to God," is not

bound to honor his father or mother.' Thus, you have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied about you quite well when he said:

*'These people draw near to me with their mouth,  
and honor me with their lips;  
but their heart is far from me.  
And in vain do they worships me,  
teaching as doctrine rules made by men.'*

Jesus gathered the crowds and said to them, "Hear, and understand. What enters into the mouth does not defile a person, but what comes out

of the mouth, this is what defiles a person. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 109:4, 5a, 7b

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek."

The Lord at Your right hand

therefore, He will raise His head high.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 15:12-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then, the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

But Jesus answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone! They are blind guides of the blind; and if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit."

Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us."

And so, Jesus answered, "Do you still fail to understand? Do not you

understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the belly and then out of the body? But the things which come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile the person. Indeed, it is from the heart that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies come forth. These are the things which defile a person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not make anyone impure." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:25-11:1

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for "the earth is the Lord's, and its fullness." If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliev-

er (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not



eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." I say conscience, not your own, but the other's conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else's conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the

glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:15-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is

not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:34-42

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and

leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!"

They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they had them flogged and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus; then, they released them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of his Name.

Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 67:20

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed be the Lord God;  
blessed be the Lord from day to day;  
the God of our salvation will [prepare our way for us].

*Alleluia.*

### John 8:21-27

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then, Jesus spoke to them again, "I am going away; you will seek me, and you will die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come."

At this, the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'"

Jesus said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you therefore that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {he}, you will die in your sins."

Therefore, they asked him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just

what I have been saying to you from the beginning! I have much to say concerning you and [much] to condemn. these [things] I say to the world."

They did not understand that he spoke to them about the Father. *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 23 / ` Ygcf Z 30

Annual Tune  
Malachi the Prophet

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 5:12abd, 13b

*A Psalm of David.*

Let all who hope in You be glad;  
they will rejoice forever,  
and all who love Your Name will glory in You,  
[for] You will bless a righteous person.

O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 13:53-58

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When Jesus had finished [speaking] these parables, he departed from there. Coming into his own country, he taught the people in their synagogue and they were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his

mother called Mary, and his brothers, James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? Are not all of his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all of these things?" And they stumbled because of him.

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his

own country and in his own house!"  
He did not do many deeds of power

there because of their unbelief. *Glory be  
to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

#### Psalm 100:8

*A Psalm of David.*

Each morning I slay all the sinners of the land,  
that I may purge all workers of iniquity  
from the city of the Lord.

*Alleluia.*

#### Matthew 14:1-5

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus, and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist! He is risen from the dead! That is why these powers work in him." As it is, Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, the

wife of his brother Philip. For John had told him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Even though Herod desired to have John put to death, he feared the crowds because they considered him to be a prophet. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 4:8-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now, what does "he ascended" mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,

some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through

human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him,

the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:19-2:3

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will

secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:30-37

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the

Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet,

for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and

signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. [You shall listen to him.]\*'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

*\*Laking in EOB, found in TR and Coptic.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 49:23, 14b

*A Psalm of David.*

A sacrifice of praise will glorify Me,  
and this is the way by which I will show him the salvation of God.  
Pay your vows to the Most High.  
*Alleluia.*

### Luke 14:16-24

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

But Jesus replied, "A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. At supper time, he sent out his servant to tell those who were invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now!' But they all began to make excuses.

The first told him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!'

Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!'

Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!'

That servant came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.'

The servant said, 'Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!'

The lord then told the servant,  
'Go out into the highways and  
hedges, and compel people to come  
in, so that my house may be filled!

For I tell you that none of those who  
were invited will taste of my supper.'"  
*Glory be to God forever.*

August 24 / <sup>^</sup>cj T]bWti 1

Annual Tune  
St. Eutychus, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist  
St. Pishay the Antiochian

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 64:5abc, 6ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he whom You have chosen  
and taken to Yourself;  
he will dwell in Your courts [forever].

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 10:34-42

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not think that I came to bring  
peace on the earth! I did not come to  
bring peace, but a sword. Indeed, I  
came to set a son against his father, a  
daughter against her mother and a  
daughter-in-law against her mother-  
in-law. A man's enemies will be  
members of his own household.

Whoever loves father or mother  
more than me is not worthy of me;  
and whoever loves son or daughter  
more than me is not worthy of me.  
Whoever does not take his cross and

follow after me is not worthy of me.  
The one who saves his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for my sake  
will obtain it. Whoever receives you  
receives me, and whoever receives me  
receives the one who sent me.  
Whoever receives a prophet because  
he is a prophet will receive a proph-  
et's reward. Whoever receives a  
righteous person because of this  
person's righteousness will receive the  
reward of the righteous. Amen, I tell  
you that whoever gives one of these

little ones even just a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple

will in no way lose his reward." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 36:17b, 18

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord supports the righteous.

The Lord knows the ways of the blameless,  
and their inheritance will be eternal.

*Alleluia.*

### John 1:1-17

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was {what} God {was}. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, nothing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. John came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but [he was sent] to bear witness to the light. The true light who enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world had come into existence through him, and the world did not

recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his Name. They were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Logos became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We beheld his glory, glory as a Father's uniquely-begotten son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him; he cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*



## The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning,  
what we have heard, what we have

seen with our eyes, what we saw and  
what our hands touched, [this is our

message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so

that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was

being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple.

Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all

the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 36:30, 31

*A Psalm of David.*

A righteous man's mouth will meditate wisdom,  
and his tongue speaks justice.  
The law of his God is in his heart,  
and his steps will not slip.

*Alleluia.*

## John 21:15-25

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?"

Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Again, Jesus asked a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?"

Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." A third time, Jesus asked, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you have affection for me?"

Peter was grieved because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you have affection for me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything! You know that I have affection for you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep! Amen, amen, I tell you; when you were young, you dressed yourself, and you walked where you wanted to. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

Now, Jesus said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. When he had said this, he said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Then Peter, turning around, saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following [them]. (This was the disciple who had also reclined near Jesus' breast at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") Peter, seeing him, asked Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus answered, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you? You follow me." Therefore, this saying went out among the brethren, that this disciple would not die. Yet, Jesus did not say to Peter that he would not die, but, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who bears witness about these things and who wrote these things.

We know that his witness is true. There are also many other things which Jesus did. If they were all written, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 25 / ^cj T]bWti 2

Annual Tune  
St. Titus the Disciple

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 18:4, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

There is no speech nor language,  
in which their voices are not heard.  
Their message went out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:38-41

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with

various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 109:4, 5a, 7b

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,  
"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek."  
The Lord at Your right hand,  
therefore, He will raise His head high.  
*Alleluia.*

## Luke 5:18-26

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Behold, men brought a paralyzed man on a cot, and they sought to bring him in to lay before Jesus. Not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up to the housetop and let him down through the tiles with his cot, right in the center, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, he said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

The scribes and the Pharisees began to wonder, saying, "Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, answered them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts in such

as way? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you;' or to say, 'Arise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (he said to the paralyzed man), "I tell you, arise, and take up your cot, and go to your house."

Immediately, the man rose up before them and took up what he was laying on, and departed to his house, glorifying God. Amazement took hold of all, and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:4

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Since we have such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, not as Moses, who put a veil on his face so that the children of Israel would not see the end of what was passing away. In this case, their minds were hardened, because to this very day, at the reading of the old covenant, the same veil remains since only in Christ does it pass away. Even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit

of the Lord is, there is freedom. With unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are all being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, and this is from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, seeing that we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we do not waver. We have renounced the hidden things of shame: we no longer walk in clever lies and we do not handle the word of God deceitfully. Instead, by the manifestation of the truth, we seek the approval of

everyone who has a conscience in the sight of God. Even if our Good News is veiled, it is veiled in those who perish, as the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who

do not believe, so that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ who is the image of God should not dawn on them.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:1-11a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three

who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 14:1-7

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In Iconium, both Paul and Barnabas entered into the synagogue of the Jews. They spoke in such a way that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up and poisoned the souls of the Gentiles against the brethren. Therefore, Paul and Barnabas stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord. Moreover, the Lord bore witness to the word of his grace, granting that

signs and wonders be done by their hands. However, the city was divided. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. Then, a group of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, plotted to attack and stone them. But Paul and Barnabas became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and to the surrounding region. There, they continued to preach the Good News.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 104:1, 67:12

*A Psalm of David.*

Confess the Lord and call on His Name;  
tell of His works among the nations.

The Lord will give a word  
to those proclaiming the Gospel to a great company.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:12-23

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

It happened in these days, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night, in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve from among them, which he also named 'apostles': Simon, whom he also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the

son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor. He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large number of his disciples and of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by



unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said,

*Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.  
Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.*

*Blessed are you when men shall hate you,*

*and when they shall exclude and mock you,*

*and throw out your name as evil for the sake of the Son of Man.*

*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven,*

*for their fathers did the same thing to the prophets.*

*Glory be to God forever.*

August 26 / <sup>^</sup> cj T] b W i 3

Annual Tune  
Archangel Raphael  
St. Andrianus the Martyr  
St. John XIV, the 96<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 33:8, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

The Angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear Him,  
and He will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 16:24-28

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
"If anyone desires to come after me,  
let him deny himself, and take up his

cross, and follow me. For whoever  
desires to save his life will lose it, and  
whoever will lose his life for my sake

will find it. Indeed, what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his life? Or what will a person give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then, he will render to everyone according to their deeds. Amen, I tell

you: there are some standing here who will not have tasted death until they see the Son of Man coming in his [Father's glory]\*." *Glory be to God forever.*

\*Greek has "Kingdom," but Coptic lectionary has "Father's glory".

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 96:7c, 8a, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

Worship Him, all His angels!  
Zion heard and was glad,  
for You are the Lord Most High over all the earth,  
You are exalted far above all the gods.  
*Alleluia.*

### Matthew 18:10-20

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven, their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save what was lost.

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine to go into the mountains and look for the one that has gone astray? Amen, I tell you: if he finds it, he rejoices over this one more than over the ninety-nine which did not go astray. Likewise, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that any of these little ones should perish.

If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother! But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church. If he refuses to hear the Church also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I tell you that whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you will agree on

earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. Indeed,

where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there I am among them." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### Hebrews 2:5-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect

through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name to my brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*  
and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery. Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham's seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he

himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy

and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 10:21-33

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?"

They replied, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say." Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up! I am also a man!" As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for

a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?"

Cornelius replied, "Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.' And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 137:1b, 2a, 1a, 1c

*A Psalm of David.*

I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,  
I will bow down toward Your holy temple,  
I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,  
for You heard the words of my mouth.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 25:31-46

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Before him, all the nations will be gathered and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then, the King will tell those on his right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father! Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world! For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, saying: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visited you?'

The King will answer them, 'Amen, I tell you: as much as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Then, he will also say to those on his left hand, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not receive me; naked, and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.'

Then, they will answer, saying: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not help you?' Then he will answer them, saying: 'Amen, I tell you: as much as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' These [ones on the left] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 27 / ^cj T]bWti 4

Annual Tune  
Abba Poemen the Anchorite  
St. Leparius the bishop of Rome

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:36ab, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

God is wondrous among His Saints; the God of Israel  
will give strength and power to His people.  
But let the righteous be glad;  
let them rejoice in the presence of God;  
let them exult with delight and gladness.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 24:42-47

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Watch therefore, for you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, be ready, for it is at

an hour which you do not expect that the Son of Man will come.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing so when he comes. Amen, I tell you that he will set him over all that he has. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 96:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Light has dawned for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.  
*Alleluia.*

### Mark 13:33-37

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

It is like a man who journeyed to another country. He leaves his house, gives authority to his servants and to each one his task. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you do not

know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning. But fear that coming suddenly, he might find you sleeping. What I tell you, I [also] tell everyone: keep watch!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 3:9-22

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, we are God's coworkers! You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with

gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person's work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone's work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone's work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.



Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him because God's sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. As it is written, "He has

taken the wise in their craftiness." And also, "The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless." Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the

proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the

glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and

testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 115:6, 7ab

*A Psalm of David.*

The death of His saints is  
precious in the sight of the Lord.

O Lord, I am Your servant;

I am Your servant and the son of Your handmaid.

*Alleluia.*

### Luke 16:1-12

*Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.*

Jesus also said to his disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.'

The manager said within himself, 'What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' Calling each one of his lord's debtors to him, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe to my lord?' The man replied, 'A hundred measures of oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly and write

fifty.' Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' That one said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much. Whoever is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you with true riches? If you have not been faithful in what belongs to another,

who will give you what is your own?      *Glory be to God forever.*

## August 28 / ^cj T]bWzi 5 through August 31 / [ccj i 3

August 28 / ^cj T]bWzi 5 see November 24 (25) / U \cf 28, page 137.

Annual tune. Amos the Prophet. St. James the bishop of Egypt. St. Barsoma the naked. St. John XV, the 99<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 29 / ^cj T]bWzi 6 see February 29 / ^cj T]bWzi (The Little Month) 6, page 256.

Annual tune. A Thanksgiving to God.

August 29 (30) / [ccj i 1 see August 29 (30) / [ccj i 1, page 5.

Joyful Tune. The Ecclesiastical New Year. St. Bartholomew the Apostle. St. Milieus, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 30 (31) / [ccj i 2 see August 30 (31) / [ccj i 2, page 11.

Joyful tune. The martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. St. Dasya the soldier and martyr.

August 31 (September 1) / [ccj i 3 see June 27 / XeZe 3, page 340.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Council held in Alexandria. A great earthquake in 1112 A.D.