

The Prophecy Readings
of the
Coptic Rite

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ANNUAL TIME

January or ፲፱፻

January 6 (7) / ፲፱፻ 11

Joyful Tune
The Glorious Feast of Theophany

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 trembled

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 rejoice, 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 people,” 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 commandments 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 Copitt, 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.

June or ЄПНП

June 29 / ЄПНП 5

Annual Tune
The Apostles' Feast
Sts. Theodosia and her Companions

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.

GREAT LENT

The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Jonas 1:1-2:1

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came about a mighty tempest, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, attempting to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, had gone to sleep, and was snoring.

The captain came to him and said, "Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe so we do not perish." And each one said to his shipmate, "Come! Let us cast lots and

find out on whose account this calamity is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then they said to him, "Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you did?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, "Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me."

And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said,

“Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about.” So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they

offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows.

Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Jonas 2:2-11

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said:

“I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God,

And He heard my voice;

Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,

And rivers encompassed me;

All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.

And I said, ‘I have been driven away from Your sight;

Shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me to my soul;

The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,

The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.

When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord.

May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You,

To You, the Lord of Deliverance.”

Then the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast up Jonah onto the dry land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Jonas 3:1-4:11

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach there according to the message I previously spoke to you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, just as the Lord spoke. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city to God, a journey of about three days. And Jonah began to enter into the city, going a day's journey, where he proclaimed and said, "Yet three days and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, "Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water." So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying, "Who knows if God shall have a

change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?" And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

But Jonah was deeply grieved and was troubled. So he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? Therefore I saw the need to flee to Tarshish; because I knew You to be compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and willing to change your heart concerning evils. And now, Master, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

And the Lord said to Jonah, "Are you exceedingly grieved?" Then Jonah went out of the city and seated himself opposite it. There he made for himself a tent and sat under its shade, until he might observe what would happen to the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah to be a shade over his head, to shield him from his discomforts. Jonah rejoiced with great joy because of the

gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. And when the sun rose, God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said, "It is better for me to die than to live." Then God said to Jonah, "Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?" And he said, "I am exceedingly grieved, even unto death." And

the Lord said, "You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know either their right hand or their left—and many livestock?"

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 2:23-3:5

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now in the course of time, it happened that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of their labors and cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the labors. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then God looked upon the children of Israel and was made known to them.

Now Moses was tending the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. Then he led them to the back of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then

the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed."

When therefore the Lord saw him turn aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" Then he said, "Here I am." So He said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 1:2-18

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: "I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me." Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they pro-

voked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is

desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom. Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: "What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the Lord. "I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of lambs. I do not desire the blood of bulls and he-goats. When you come to appear before Me, who required these things from your hands to tread My court? Although you should bring fine wheat flour, it is vain. Incense is an abomination to

Me. I cannot endure your new moons, and Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, and fasting and holy day. Your new moons and feasts My soul hates. You have become a dissatisfaction to Me; I will not forgive your sins. When you stretch forth your hands to Me, I will turn My eyes from you. Although you make many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood. 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.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 1:19-2:3a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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." For her captives shall be saved with judgment and with mercy. The lawless and sinners shall be destroyed together. Those who forsake the Lord shall come to an end. For they shall be ashamed of the idols they desired and the gardens they longed for. For they shall be as a terebinth tree that

has lost its leaves; like a garden with no water. Their strength shall be as broken fiber and their works as sparks of fire. The lawless and the sinners will burn together, and no one shall quench them.

The word that came from the Lord to Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. Many Gentiles shall travel and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it."* For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Kitchener ends here.*

Zecharias 8:7-13

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.'

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 2:3-11

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Many Gentiles shall travel and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it." For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the Gentiles and rebuke many people. They shall beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O now, house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. For He forsook His people, the house of Israel, for as from the beginning, their land is filled with divinations—like the land of foreigners—and many children of foreigners were born to

them. Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures. Their land is also filled with horses; there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also filled with the abominations of their works, and they worship the works of their hands, which their fingers made. A man bows down and each man humbles himself, but I will not forgive them. Enter now into the rocks and hide in the earth from the face of the Lord, for fear and the glory of His might when He rises to smite the earth. For the eyes of the Lord are lofty, and man is humble. The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joel 2:12-27

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now says the Lord your God, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate. He is longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?”

Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom go out from his bedchamber and the bride out of her bridal chamber. Between the porch and the altar, the priests of the altar, ministering to the Lord, will each be weeping and will say, “O Lord, spare Your people; do not give Your inheritance to reproach, that the Gentiles should rule over them, lest they should say among the Gentiles, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

God’s Blessing upon His People

But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. And the Lord answered His people and said, “Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, and I

will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up, because he has done powerful works.”

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other but Me. And at no time will My people be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 2:11b-19

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every mountain and lofty hill, and upon every high tower and fortified wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships.

Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. But they shall hide all the things made by hands. They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord's presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zecharias 8:18-23

From the book of Zecharias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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.' Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Yet many people will have come and those inhabiting many cities; and the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, "Let us go to beseech the Lord and to seek

out the face of the Lord Almighty; and I will go also.'" And many peoples and many nations will come to seek out the presence of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem and to obtain the favor of the presence of the Lord.' Thus says the Lord Almighty, 'In those days, if ten men from all the tongues of the nations stop you, even if they grab hold of the hem of a Jewish man, they will be saying, "We will go with you, for we heard God is with you." ' ' "

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 6:3-7:26

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you—‘to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ”

These are the ordinances and the judgments the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the desert, when they came from the land of Egypt: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power. So these words I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and it shall be immovable before your eyes; and you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

“So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities you did not build, and

houses full of all good things you did not fill, and hewn-out wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—and when you have eaten and are full— then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brings you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall cling to Him and take oaths in His name. You shall not go after different gods, the gods of the nations around you, because the Lord your God is a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God, as you tempted Him in the Temptation. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and the ordinances He commanded you. So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and you may go in and inherit the good land the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase out all your enemies from before your face, as He said.

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are the testimonies, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded you?’ you shall say to your son, ‘We were servants of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; and the Lord set great and evil signs affecting Egypt, Pharaoh, and his house before us. Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in to give us this land He swore to give our fathers. So the Lord commanded us to do all these ordinances, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, and we may live as today. Then we shall have mercy, if we are careful to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as the Lord commanded us.’

“Now if the Lord your God brings you into the land you go to inherit, and casts out great nations before your face, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, you shall strike and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show them mercy. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, nor take his daughter for your son. For she will turn your son away from Me, and he will serve other gods; so the Lord will be very

angry with you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their pillars, and cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire.

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God chose you to be a people for Himself, special above all the nations on the face of the earth. The Lord did not prefer nor choose you because you were more in number than all the nations, for you are the least of all the nations; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath He swore to your fathers, the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know, the Lord your God, this God, is a faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with those who hate Him; He will repay them to their face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments, the ordinances, and these judgments I command you today to do them.

“Then it shall come to pass, when you listen to all these ordinances and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy He swore to your fathers; and He will love you and bless and multiply you; He will also

bless the offspring of your womb, and the fruit of your land: your grain, wine, and olive oil, and the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep, in the land the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed more than all the nations; there shall not be a childless male or a barren female among you or your cattle. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and He will not put on you the evil diseases you saw and knew in Egypt, but will put them on all who hate you. Also you shall eat all the spoils of the nations the Lord your God gives you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

“If you should say in your mind, ‘This nation is greater than I; how will I be able to destroy them?’ you shall not be afraid of them, but shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all the Egyptians: the great trials your eyes saw, those great signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord our God do to all the nations of whose face you are afraid. Moreover

the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. You shall not be terrified of their face; for the Lord your God is among you, a great and powerful God; and the Lord your God will consume those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the land become a desert and the wild animals increase against you. But the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands and destroy them with a great destruction, until they are destroyed. So He will deliver their kings into your hands, and will destroy their name from that place; no one shall be able to stand against your presence until you destroy them. You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not desire the silver or gold of theirs, nor take it for yourselves, lest you stumble because of it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 3:1-14a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Judah and from Jerusalem the strong man and the strong woman; the strength of bread and the strength of water; the

mighty man and the man of war; the judge, the prophet, the diviner, and the elder; the captain of fifty, the wonderful counselor, the skillful artisan, and the prudent disciple. “I

will give children to be their princes, and mockers shall rule over them. The people will collapse, every one on another and every one on his neighbor. The child will be arrogant toward the elder and vulgar toward the honorable.” When a man takes hold of his brother or his father’s servant, saying, “You have clothing; you be our ruler and let my food be under your roof.” In that day, he will protest, saying, “I will not be your ruler, for in my house there is neither food nor clothing. I will not be the ruler of this people.” For Jerusalem is ruined and Judah is fallen, because their tongues are lawless and they are disobedient to the Lord. Now their glory is humbled. The shame on their face witnesses against them. They

declare and exhibit their sin as Sodom. Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, saying, “Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us.” They shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. “O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet.” The Lord stands up to plead and stands to judge His people. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The First Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 3:6-14

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses then hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow. So I came down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring My people,

the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt?” Then God said to Moses, “I will be with you, and this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” So Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I tell them?”

Then God said to Moses, “I AM the Existing One.” He also said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Existing One sent me to you.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 4:2-5:7a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who

remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—

everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion, and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from their midst by the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning. He shall come and there shall be with regard to Mt. Zion and everything round about, a cloud to overshadow it by day, and as it were smoke and light of fire burning at night, and it shall be covered altogether with glory. It shall be for shade from the heat, for a place of shelter, and for a hiding-place from inclement weather and rain.

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its

midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.” For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Job 19:1-27

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“How long will you weary my soul
And take me down with words?

Only know how the Lord has
dealt with me thus.

You speak against me, and while
shaming me,

You press hard on me.

Yes indeed, I have truly erred; my
error lodges with me.

When I speak words which I
should not have spoken,

My words go astray and are unseasonable.

Alas! You exalt yourselves against
me

And attack me with disgrace.
Know therefore that the Lord has
troubled me
And raised His stronghold against
me.
Behold, I laugh at disgrace and I
will not speak.
Nor will I cry out, for judgment is
nowhere to be found.
I am walled in round about and
cannot cross over,
For He has set darkness before my
face.
He stripped me of my glory
And took the crown from my
head.
He has torn me apart on every
side, and I am gone.
He has uprooted my hope like a
tree.
He handled me vehemently in
wrath
And has counted me like an ene-
my.
His raiders came against me with
one accord.
They encircled my paths and lay in
wait.
“My brothers stood far from me
And recognized strangers rather
than me.
So my friends became unmerciful.
My relatives acted as though they
did not know me,
And my close friends have forgot-
ten me.
As for my neighbors and the
maidservants of my house,
I was a stranger before them.

I called my servant, but he gave no
answer,
Though I begged him with my
mouth.
I also entreated my wife,
And summoned the children of
my concubines and flattered them.
But they rejected me forever.
When I arise, they speak against
me.
Those who know me detest me,
And those whom I truly love
turned against me.
The muscles of my body have
decayed under my skin,
And my bones are held in my
teeth.
“Have mercy on me, have mercy
on me, O friends,
For the hand of the Lord has
touched me.
Why do you persecute me as the
Lord does,
And are not satisfied because of
my flesh?
“For who may commit my words
to writing,
To put them in a book forever,
With an iron pen and lead,
Or to engrave them in rocks?
For I know He is everlasting,
He who is about to set me free on
the earth
And to raise up my skin that en-
dures these things;
For these have been accomplished
for me by the Lord;
Which I myself am conscious of,
And my eyes have beheld, and not
those of another.

All has been accomplished for me
in my bosom.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 5:7-16

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them. 10r where ten yoke of oxen shall work, the land shall yield one jar, and whoever sows six homers shall receive three measures. Woe to those who rise early in the morning to follow intoxicating drink; to those

who continue until night, for wine shall inflame them. For they drink wine with the harp, the strings, the tambourine and flute, but they do not look at the deeds of the Lord, nor consider the works of His hands!

Therefore my people became captives, because they did not know the Lord; and a multitude died through hunger and thirst for water. Hades enlarged itself and opened its mouth continually. The glorious, the great, the wealthy, and the troublesome shall descend into it. A man shall be humiliated, and a man shall be dishonored; and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the Holy God shall be glorified in righteousness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 2:11-20

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren

of the sons of Israel. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew

men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you hitting your neighbor?" He replied, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses was alarmed and said, "Surely this thing is known." Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs

to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, "How is it you came so soon today?" They replied, "An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us and watered our sheep." So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaia 5:17-25

From the book of Isaia the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Those plundered shall be fed as bulls, and lambs shall eat on the waste places of those taken away.

Woe to those who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope and lawlessness as with the strap of a cow's yoke, who say, "Let Him speedily hasten what He will do that we may see it, and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know it!" Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating

drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Malachi 1:6-3:6*

From the book of Malachi the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?” says the Lord Almighty. “You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, ‘In what way have we disparaged Your name?’ You offer defiled bread on My altar, but you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept these from you?” says the Lord Almighty. “For this reason, even among you the doors will be shut, and you will not burn an offering on My altar. I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord Almighty, “nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My name has been glorified among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering, for My name shall be great among the

Gentiles,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you profane it in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled; and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And you said, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And I have blown these away,” says the Lord Almighty. “And you bring prey, the lame, and the sick, and when you bring an offering, should I accept these from your hands?” says the Lord Almighty. “But cursed be the man who is able, who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—for I am a great King,” says the Lord Almighty, “and My name is glorious among the nations.

“And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; indeed I will curse it, and I will scatter your blessing, and you will have it no more because you do not take this to heart. Behold, I am turning my back on you, and I will smear dung on your faces, the dung of your feasts, and I will carry you away at the same time. Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant is with the sons of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty.

“My covenant of life and peace was with him, and I gave this to him

that he might reverently fear Me, that he might be established before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from lawlessness. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.

“But you have departed from the way; you weakened many in the law and corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty. “Therefore I also made you contemptible and disregarded before all nations, because you have not guarded My ways but have shown partiality in the law.”

Did not one God create you? Do you not all have one father? Why, then, does each of you forsake his brother to profane the covenant of your fathers? Judah was forsaken, and an abomination has occurred in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah profaned the holy things of the Lord, which He loved, and sought out foreign gods. The Lord will destroy the man who does these things until he is humiliated from the tents of Jacob and from among those who offer sacrifice to the Lord Almighty.

And you do these things which I hate. You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and moaning because of troubles, yet still thinking it is worthy to look upon your sacrifice or take it as acceptable from

your hands. And you say, “Why?” Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you have forsaken; yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. But did He not make another, having a remnant of His Spirit? Yet you ask, “What else does God seek but offspring?” But take heed to your spirit, and do not forsake the wife of your youth. “But if you hate her and send her away,” says the Lord God of Israel, “ungodliness will obscure your thinking,” says the Lord Almighty. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not forsake her.” You weary the Lord with your words, yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord Almighty. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner’s fire and as soap in one’s wash. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold. He will purify the sons of Levi and pour them out as purified gold and silver, and they will bring an offering to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of

Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

“And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, those who exploit wage-earners, those who oppress widows and afflict orphans, those who pervert the justice due

foreigners, and those who do not fear Me,” says the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob, have not abstained [from the sins of your fathers.]

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

** Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Thursday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 5:15-22

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember, you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God ordered you to guard the Sabbath day and to sanctify it.

‘Honor your father and mother in the manner the Lord your God commanded you, that it may be well with you, and you may be a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

‘You shall not murder.

‘You shall not commit adultery.

‘You shall not steal.

‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not covet your neighbor’s house, neither his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or his cattle, or anything belonging to your neighbor.’

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 6:1-12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!" Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth, and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is

taken away, and your sin is cleansed." I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?" Then I said, "Behold, here am I, send me." So He said, "Go, and tell this people, 'You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.' For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them." Then I said, "Lord, how long?" So He answered, "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joshua 2:1-6:26*

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

After this, Joshua the son of Nun sent out two young men from Acacia Grove to spy out the land, saying, "Go and see the land and Jericho." So the two young men went and entered Jericho; and they went into the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. This was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come to spy on the land." So the king of Jericho sent and spoke to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who came into

your house last night; for they are here to spy on the land."

But the woman took the men and hid them, and she spoke to them, saying, "The men came to me; but as the gate was being shut in the darkness, the men went out. I do not know where they went. Pursue them, if indeed you may overtake them." But she led them to the roof and hid them in the stalk of flax she had piled together on the roof.

So the men searched for them along the road to the Jordan, to the fords, and the gate was closed. Then it came to pass, when the men who pursued them went after them and before the spies went to sleep, that she went to them on the roof and said, "I know that the Lord gave you the land, for fear of you has fallen upon us. For we heard that the Lord God dried up the Red Sea before you when you came out of the land of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and to Og, whom you utterly destroyed. So when we heard it, we were amazed in our heart, and there was no longer any spirit in any of us because of your presence, for your God is in heaven above and on earth below. Now therefore, swear to me by the Lord God that as I showed you mercy, you shall also be merciful to me in my father's house, and capture alive all my house: my father and mother, and my brothers, and everything they have, and deliver my soul from death."

Then the men said to her, "Our life for your life, even to death." She then said, "When the Lord shall deliver the city to you, deal with me in mercy and truth." After this, she let them down through the window and said to them, "Go away to the hill country, lest the pursuers happen to find you. Hide there for three days until your pursuers return from their

search for you. Afterwards, you shall depart and go your way."

So the men said to her, "We will be without fault regarding this oath of yours. For behold, we will come into a part of the city, and you will set a sign; you shall hang this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down. Then you shall gather yourself and your father and mother and your brothers into your father's house. Whoever shall go outside the door of your house, his guilt shall be upon him, and we will be free of this oath of yours. But we will be responsible for whoever is with you in your house. But if anyone injures us or reveals these words of ours, we shall be free from this oath of yours." Then she said to them, "Let it be so according to your word." So she sent them away.

They departed and went to the hill country and remained there for three days; and the pursuers searched all the roads, but did not find them. So the two young men returned and came down from the mountain. They crossed over to Joshua the son of Nun and told him everything that happened to them. They said to Joshua, "The Lord will deliver all the land into our hand, for everyone who inhabits that land cowers in fear because of us."

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and departed from Acacia Grove; and he came to the Jordan and lodged there before crossing over. After three days, it came to pass

that the scribes went through the camp and commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and Levites who carry it, then you shall depart from your places; and you shall go after it; but there shall be a distance between you and it. You shall stand as much as two thousand cubits from it, and do not come near it, that you may understand the way you are to go; for you have not gone this way before." Joshua then said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua also said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and go before the people." So the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and went before the people.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, 'As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.' " Joshua then said to the children of Israel, "Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the

ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still."

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, "Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and

command them, saying, "Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight." So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, "Draw near in front of me in the Lord's presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, 'What are these stones to you?' then you will declare to your son, saying, 'The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over'; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever."

So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan until Joshua had completed all the

Lord commanded him to proclaim to the people; and the people hastened and crossed over.

Then it came to pass, when all the people finished crossing over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord crossed over, and the stones before them. The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh also crossed over, well-armed before the sons of Israel, as Moses commanded them. Forty thousand men armed for war crossed before the Lord for battle against the city of Jericho. On that day, the Lord magnified Joshua before all the nation of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses.

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua saying, "Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord to come up from the Jordan." So Joshua commanded the priests, saying, "Go out from the Jordan." Then it came to pass, when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stepped out from the Jordan and set their feet on land, the water of the Jordan returned to its place, and went as before over all its banks.

Now the people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel camped at Gilgal in the region eastward from Jericho. Then Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones he took from the Jordan, saying, "When your children ask you, 'What are these stones?' then tell your children that

Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we crossed over; that all the nations of the land might know that the power of the Lord is mighty; and that you might worship the Lord your God in every age.”

Then it came to pass, when the kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan and the kings of the Phoenicians near the sea heard that the Lord God had dried up the Jordan River before the children of Israel when they crossed over, their minds fainted, they were panic-stricken, and there was no more sense left in them because of the presence of the children of Israel.

At about this time, the Lord said to Joshua, “Make stone knives for yourself from a sharp rock, and sit down and circumcise the sons of Israel.” So Joshua made sharp stone knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at the place called the Hill of Foreskins. In this manner, Joshua completely purified the sons of Israel, as many as were born at any time along the way and as many as were uncircumcised after they came out of Egypt. Joshua circumcised all these. For Israel lived in the Madbarite desert for forty-two years; therefore, most of their fighting men who came out of Egypt and who disobeyed the commandments of God were uncir-

cumcised. Concerning these, He also determined that they would not see the land which the Lord swore to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. But in their place, He raised up their sons, whom Joshua circumcised because they were born during the journey and thus were uncircumcised. So when they were circumcised, they rested there and stayed in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, “Today I have removed the disgrace of Egypt from you.” Thus he called the name of that place Gilgal.

Then the children of Israel kept Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. They ate of the unleavened and new wheat of the land. On this day, the manna ceased, after they ate from the wheat of the land. Thus, the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruits in the land of the Phoenicians in that year.

Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, “Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?” He said to him, “I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord.” Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth and said to him, “O Master, what do you command your servant?” The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, “Loose the

shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy.”

Jericho was enclosed and fortified, and no one went out of or into it. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Behold, I will deliver Jericho into your hand, its king and its army of soldiers who are mighty. But place your soldiers around it, and it shall come to pass that when you sound with the trumpet, let all the people shout together, and when they shout, the walls of the city shall fall by themselves; and all the people will enter, each rushing throughout the entire area of the city.”

So Joshua the son of Nun went to the priests and he spoke to them, saying, “Command the people to go around and surround the city, and let the men of war pass on armed before the Lord. Let seven priests holding seven holy trumpets likewise pass by before the Lord, and let them signal vigorously; and let the ark of the covenant of the Lord follow after them. Let the men of war go in front; and let the priests be the rear guard behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord as they proceed, and sound the trumpets.”

Now Joshua gave a command to the people, saying, “Do not shout, nor let anyone hear your voice, until the day I myself tell you to shout, and then shout.” So when the ark of the covenant of God went around the city, it immediately returned into the camp and lodged there. Then on the second day, Joshua rose early in the

morning, and the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Seven priests carried seven trumpets and went on before the Lord. The armed men followed after with the rest of the multitude behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then the priests sounded the trumpets, and all the rest of the multitude encircled the city from close by, then again went back to the camp. They did this for six days.

On the seventh day, they rose early in the morning and went around the city six times. Then it came to pass that as they marched around the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Shout, for indeed the Lord has handed over the city to you. For the city shall be accursed by the Lord, it and whatever is in it. However, preserve Rahab the harlot and whatever is in her house. But be very careful to keep yourself from what is accursed, lest you yourself consider to take from it what is accursed, and then you shall make the camp of the children of Israel a curse and destroy us. But all the silver, the gold, the bronze or the iron shall be holy to the Lord and brought in to the treasury of the Lord.” So the priests sounded the trumpets, and when the people heard the sound of the trumpets, all the people shouted together with a great and mighty shout. Then the entire wall fell round about, and all the people went into the city.

Joshua put the city under a curse with the edge of the sword, and whatever was in it: from man to woman, from young man to old man, and from calf to donkey. Then Joshua said to the two young men who acted as spies, "Go into the house of the woman, and bring her out from there, and whatever she has." So the two young men who had spied out the city went into the house of the woman and brought out Rahab the harlot, her father and mother, and her brothers and kindred, and all she possessed. They set her outside the camp of Israel, and the city, with everyone in it, was set on fire; but the silver, the gold, the bronze, and the iron they brought into the treasury of the Lord.

Thus Joshua kept alive Rahab the harlot and all the house of her father,

and caused her to dwell in Israel to this very day, because she hid the spies Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Joshua adjured Israel on that day before the Lord, saying, "Cursed be the man who rebuilds that city. He shall lay its foundation in his firstborn son, and he shall set up its gates with his youngest son." Thus did Hiel from Bethel. He laid its foundation in Abiram, his firstborn son, and he set up its gates with Segub, his youngest surviving son.

So the Lord was with Joshua, and his name was known throughout all the land.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Friday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 8:1-9:4

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart,

whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your

garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper. Thus you shall eat and be full and bless the Lord your God for the good land He gave you.

“Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion

and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days— then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’ Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

“Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?’ Therefore understand today, the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God

consumes these nations before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land'; but because of the

ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Samuel 17:16-54, 18:6-9 or 1 Kings 17:1-18:4

From the book of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Philistines brought their armies together for battle, and they gathered at Sochoh of Judah. They encamped between Sochoh and Azekah in Ephes Dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel gathered, and they were encamped in the valley. They were to set up in battle formation opposite the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

And a mighty man went out from the battle line of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath. His height was four cubits and a span. He had a helmet on his head, and he wore a breastplate of chain mail; and the weight of his breastplate was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. And he had armor made of bronze on his legs and a bronze shield between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like the beam of a loom, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels. A shield-bearer went before him. Then he stood and shouted out to the armies of Israel and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and you Hebrews of Saul? Choose a man for

yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I am able to kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "Look! This very day I challenge the ranks of the armies of Israel. Give me a man that the two of us can fight one on one." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

But David said to Saul, "Let not the heart of my lord fall in regards to him. Your servant will go and fight with this foreigner." And Saul said to David, "No, you are not able to go to the Philistine to fight him, since you are a young man, and he is a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to tend the flock for his father, and when a lion or a bear came and took a sheep out of the flock, I followed it and struck it, and delivered the sheep from its mouth. And as it arose against me, I caught it by its throat and struck and killed it. Your servant smote both the lion and the bear; and the uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them to me. Will I not go and kill him today, and remove the reproach of Israel? For who is this

uncircumcised one who challenged the ranks of the armies of Israel? The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!”

So Saul clothed David with armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head, and he girded David with his sword over his armor. David made a trial walking with them a time or two. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to go with these, for I have not tested them.” So they removed them. Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook. He put them in a shepherd’s bag to store away, and in his hand was his sling. He then approached the Philistine.

And when Goliath saw David, he disdained him; for he was a young boy, ruddy with a good countenance. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I as a dog, that you come against me with a staff and stones?” Then David said, “No, worse than a dog!” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven and the beasts of the field!”

24Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord Sabaoth, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you reproached today.

25Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you. And this day I will give your carcass and the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands.”

And the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out one stone. He slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone penetrated through his helmet and into his forehead. He fell to the ground on his face. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore, David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword, and killed him and cut off his head. And the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled.

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon. Then the men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. And David took the head of the

Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. He put his armor in his tent.

From all the cities of Israel, women came out dancing with tambourines, with joy, and with cymbals to greet David. And the women began a song and sang, "Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

These words seemed evil in the eyes of Saul, and he said to David, "They ascribed to you ten thousands, and to me they ascribed only thousands." So from that day forward, Saul eyed David with suspicion.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 7:1-14

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, there came up Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it; but they could not conquer it. Then it was reported to the house of David, saying, "Syria's forces made an agreement with Ephraim." So his soul and the soul of his people was confounded, as a tree of the woods is shaken by the wind. Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field, and say to him, 'Guard yourself and be silent; do not fear, neither let your soul be disheartened because of these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for when My fierce anger is over, again I shall heal. The son of Syria and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, "Let us go up against Judah and talk with them, and let us turn them to

our side, and let us make the son of Tabeel king of it.'" Thus says the Lord of hosts: "This counsel shall not continue, nor shall it come to pass. But the head of Syria is Damascus; nevertheless, in sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim will cease being a people. Also the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son, and if you do not believe this, neither will you understand it." " "

Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 11:1-20

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“He who speaks much should also listen in turn,

Or does the fluent speaker think himself to be righteous?

Blessed is the short-lived offspring of a woman.

Do not be wordy in your speech,
For there is no one to reply to you.

Do not say, ‘I am pure in my works

And blameless before Him.’

But how does the Lord speak to you?

He will open His lips against you.

Then He will declare to you the power of wisdom,

For it shall be double in your case.

At that time you will know a worthy recompense

Has come to you from the Lord because of your sins.

Will you find the traces of the Lord?

Have you reached the outer extremities

Of what the Almighty has made?

Heaven is high, and what will you do?

And what do you know,

For there are even deeper things in Hades?

Do you know those dimensions

That are longer than the earth and broader than the sea?

If He should overthrow everything,

Who then will say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

For He knows the works of the lawless;

And when He sees wrongs, He shall not overlook them.

But man vainly swims in words,
And a mortal born of a woman is equal to a donkey in the desert.

If you have made your heart pure
And stretch out your hands toward Him,

If something lawless is done by your hands,

Put it far away from you;

And do not let any wrongdoing lodge in your dwelling.

For in this way, your face will shine forth like pure water,

For you will cleanse away the filth. You will not fear.

Then you will forget this hardship

Like a wave that has passed away;

And you will not be terrified.

Your prayer will be like the morning star.

At midday, life will rise to you.

You will be confident because you have hope;

And peace shall bring light to you out of anxiety and care.

You will also be at rest,

And there will be no one to fight against you.

Many will change their mind about
you and supplicate you.

But salvation will forsake them,
for their hope will be lost,

And the eyes of the ungodly will
melt away.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Second Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 1:20-35

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom sings in the streets;
She moves boldly in the squares.
She preaches on high city walls
And sits at the gates of lords.
At the gates of a city she boldly
says,
“So long a time as the simple hold
fast to righteousness,
They shall not be ashamed;
But those without discernment,
since they are desirous of arrogance,
And are become ungodly, they
hate perception,
And are become subject to re-
proofs.
Behold, I shall bring forth upon
you the utterance of my breath,
And I shall teach you my word.
Since I called, but you did not
obey,
And spoke at length, but you paid
no attention,
But made my counsels invalid,
And were not persuaded by my
reproofs;
Consequently, I will laugh at your
annihilation,
And will exult when ruin comes to
you,

And when confusion reaches you
unawares,
And overthrow comes like a
whirlwind,
And when tribulation and anguish
come to you,
And when destruction comes to
you.
For it shall be, when you shall call
upon me,
I will not listen to you;
Evil men will seek me, but not
find me,
For they hate wisdom, and choose
not the fear of the Lord.
Neither do they wish to follow my
counsels,
But despise my reproofs.
Therefore, they shall eat the fruits
of their own way
And be filled with their own un-
godliness.
For since they wrong the simple,
they shall be killed,
And a close examination shall
destroy the ungodly.
But he who obeys me shall dwell
in hope,

And shall be at rest without fear from every evil.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 8:13-9:6

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Sanctify the Lord Himself, and He shall be your fear. So if you trust in Him, He shall be as a sanctuary for you, and you shall not come against Him as a stumbling stone nor as a rock of disaster. But the house of Jacob lies in wait with a snare, and those in Jerusalem with a trap. Therefore many among them shall be powerless and fall, and be broken, and men who are in safety shall draw near and be conquered.”

Then they who seal the law so as not to learn it themselves shall be evident. But One will say, “I shall wait for God who turned His face away from the house of Jacob, and I will trust in Him, behold, I and the children God gave me.” This will be for signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion. So if they should say to you, “Seek those who call from the earth and are ventriloquists, who speak from the belly,” should not a nation seek their God? Why do they seek the dead on behalf of the living? He gave the law to help them, so as not to speak such a word as this, concerning which word there are no gifts to offer with it. Thus a harsh famine will come upon you, and it shall be, when you are hungry, you will be grieved, and speak badly of your ruler and the idols. Then they

shall look up to heaven above, and on the earth below, and behold, tribulation, distress, and darkness. There will be severe despair and darkness, so dark one cannot see. And the one who is in despair shall be perplexed, but only for a time.

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. The multitude of the people, whom You brought down in Your joy, they shall also rejoice in Your presence, as those who rejoice in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoils. For the yoke lying upon them and the rod upon their neck is taken away, for the Lord broke the rod of the exactors as in the day of Midian. For every robe and garment gathered by deceit, they shall repay with money, and they shall be willing to do this, even though they were burned with fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers,

peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it

with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 2:1-15

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you receive the words
of my commandment

And hide them within yourself,

Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,

And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.

For if he calls upon wisdom,

And you utter your voice for understanding;

If you seek perception with a strong voice,

If you seek her as silver

And search for her as treasure,

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord

And find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

And from His face come knowledge and understanding;

And He stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;

And He will carefully guard the way of those who reverence Him.

Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,

And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

And the perception in your soul seems to be good,

Then good counsel will guard you,

And holy thinking will keep you;

That it might rescue you from an evil way

And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness

So they may walk in the ways of darkness,

Who delight in evils

And rejoice in evil perversion,

Whose ways are crooked

And their paths devious.

Isaia 10:12-20

From the book of Isaia the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But it shall come to pass, when the Lord has completed all He will do on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, He will go against the arrogant heart of the king of the Assyrians and the glory of his haughty looks. For he said, "I shall act in my strength and by the wisdom of my understanding. I also shall remove the boundaries of the nations and plunder their strength. I shall shake their inhabited cities. I shall overtake with my hand all the inhabited world as a nest, and take them as eggs that have been left. There is no one who can escape or oppose me."

Shall the ax glorify itself without him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself without him who saws with it? It is likewise if one should lift a rod or a piece of wood. But it shall

not be so, for the Lord of hosts will send dishonor against your honor; and He will kindle a burning fire against your glory. So the Light of Israel will be as a fire, and He will sanctify him with burning fire; and it will devour the wood like grass on that day. The mountains, the hills, and the forests will be consumed, and devour both soul and body, and he who flees will be like one fleeing from a burning flame. Then the remnant will be few in number, and a child shall write them.

It shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel and those of Jacob who were saved will never again obey those who wronged them; but they will trust in God, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joshua 7:1-26*

From the book of Joshua, the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But the children of Israel committed a great offense, for they kept back for themselves something from what was accursed. Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took something from what was accursed, and the Lord was very angry with the sons of Israel. Then Joshua sent men into Ai, which is near Bethel, saying, "Spy out Ai." So the men went up,

and spied out Ai. After this, they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and force the city to surrender. Do not lead all the people there, for they are few in number." Thus, about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the face of the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed thirty-six of them and pursued them from the

gate; and they crushed them on the steep slope. So the hearts of the people were terrified and became as water.

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the ground before the face of the Lord until evening, both he and the elders of Israel, and they put dust on their heads. Joshua said, "I beseech You, O Lord. Why did Your servant lead this people over Jordan to deliver them to the Amorite to destroy us? If only we had remained and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan. What shall I say, since Israel turned his back before his enemy? When the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land hear this, they will surround us and destroy us from off the land. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

So the Lord said to Joshua, "Rise up. Why have you fallen upon your face? The people sinned and transgressed the covenant I made with them; for they stole something from what was accursed and put it among their goods. So the sons of Israel will be unable to stand against the face of their enemies. They will turn their backs before their enemies, because they are accursed; and I will not be with you until you remove the accursed thing from among you. Rise up and sanctify the people; and tell them to be sanctified for tomorrow. Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'The accursed thing is among you. You shall not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove the

accursed thing from among you. In the morning you shall all be gathered together by your tribes, and it shall come to pass that the tribe the Lord points out, you shall bring forward family by family. Then the family the Lord points out, you shall bring household by household. After this, the household the Lord points out, you shall bring man by man. So whoever is pointed out, he shall be burned with fire along with whatever he has, because he transgressed the covenant of the Lord and brought lawlessness in Israel.'"

Now Joshua arose early in the morning and gathered the people tribe by tribe; and the tribe of Judah was pointed out. Then he brought family by family, and the family of Zara was pointed out. After this, he brought man by man, and Achan, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, was pointed out. Thus, Joshua said to Achan, "Give glory to the Lord God of Israel today and make confession. Tell me what you did and hide nothing from me."

So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. Thus and thus I did: I saw a beautiful, multicolored garment in the spoil and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of fifty shekels of gold. I desired them and took them. Behold, they are hidden in the ground in my tent, and the silver is concealed under them." Then Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent in the camp. These things

were hidden in the tent, with the silver under them. They carried them from the tent; and they brought them to Joshua and the elders of Israel and placed them before the Lord.

After this, Joshua took Achan the son of Zerah and led him up to the Valley of Achor, along with his sons and daughters, and his calves, and all his donkeys and sheep, and his tent and all his belongings. Thus he led them all to the Valley of Achor. And

Joshua said to Achan, "Why did you destroy us? May the Lord destroy you this very day." Then all Israel stoned him with stones; and they put over him a great heap of stones, and the Lord ceased from the wrath of his anger. Therefore and to this day, the place is named the Valley of Achor.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Wednesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 4:19b-6:13

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." Then Moses took his wife and sons and set them on beasts of burden; and he returned to the land of Egypt, and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. Again, the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you work before Pharaoh all the wonders I put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, and he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My firstborn son. So I say to you, 'Let My people go so they may serve Me.' But if you refuse to let them go, indeed, I will kill your firstborn son." ' "

Thus it came to pass on the way, at the inn, that the Angel of the Lord met him and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son, and fell at His feet and said, "The flow of blood from my son's circumcision is stopped." So He departed from him, because she said, "The flow of blood from my son's circumcision is stopped." Now the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the desert to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and they kissed one another. Then Moses reported to Aaron all the words of the Lord which He sent to him, and all the signs which He commanded him. Thus Moses and Aaron went and

gathered together the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron then spoke all the words the Lord spoke to Moses, and he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed and rejoiced because God had visited the children of Israel and because He had seen their affliction. Then the people bowed and worshiped.

Now after this Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, so they may hold a feast to Me in the desert.' " Then Pharaoh said, "Who is He, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has called us to Him. Let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest at any time death or slaughter happen to us." Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Why, Moses and Aaron, do you take the people from their work? Get back to your work." Again Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, so let us not give them rest from their work."

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their clerks, saying, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks as yesterday and the day before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. Furthermore, you shall lay on them a daily quota of bricks they are to do each day. You

shall hold them to it. You shall not reduce it, for they are loafers; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' Let the labors of these men be oppressive and cause them anxiety; and let them not pay attention to empty words."

So the taskmasters of the people and their clerks went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I will not give you straw. Go, get it yourselves wherever you can find it; yet nothing will be reduced from your workload.' " The people were then dispersed throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters also forced them to hurry, saying, "Fulfill your daily quota of work as when straw was given you." Also the clerks from the race of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters set over them, were beaten and questioned, "Why have you not fulfilled your task in making bricks both yesterday and the day before, and also today?"

Then the clerks of Israel's sons entered and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants? No straw is given your servants, and they say to us, 'Make bricks!' and indeed, your servants are beaten, but the fault is with your own people." But he said, "You are loafers! You are loafers! Therefore you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.' Now therefore, go and work; for no straw shall be given you; yet you shall deliver the

quota of bricks.” So the clerks from the children of Israel saw they were in trouble after it was said, “You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota.”

Then as they departed from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron, who stood there to meet them. They said to them, “Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in his hand to kill us.”

So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You sent me? From the time I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has afflicted this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them from his land.”

God also spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their God, but I did not reveal to them My name, Lord. I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of the Canaanites, the land of their sojourn, in which they were strangers. I have also heard the

groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the Egyptian tyranny; I will rescue you from their bondage and redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments. I will take you as My people and be your God. Then you shall know I am the Lord your God who brought you out from under the Egyptian tyranny. I will also bring you into the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.’ ” So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they paid no heed to Moses because of their faintheartedness and cruel bondage.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to send forth the children of Israel from his land.” Moses then spoke before the Lord, saying, “The children of Israel have paid no heed to me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I am not eloquent?” Thus the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to send forth the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joel 2:21-26

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. The threshing floors shall be full of

wheat, and the presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. “And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 9:8-10:4

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

All the people will know—Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—who say in pride and arrogance of heart, “The bricks fell, but let us hew stones; and let us cut down sycamores and cedars, and we shall build ourselves a tower.” But God shall overthrow those who rise up against them on Mt. Zion, and scatter their enemies: the Syrians from the rising of the sun, the Greeks from the setting of the sun, and those who shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. But the people did not turn until they were struck, yet they did not seek the Lord. So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel, great and small, in one day. The elder and those who admire persons, this is the head. The prophet who teaches lawlessness, this is the tail. For those who bless this people lead them astray, and they lead

them astray so as to destroy them. Therefore God will have no joy in their young men, nor mercy on their orphans and widows. For all of them are lawless and evil. Every mouth speaks injustices. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. For lawlessness burns like fire, and like dry grass, it shall be consumed by fire and burn in the thickets of the forest. It shall devour all the hills round about. Because of the Lord’s wrath the entire land is burned up, and the people are as fuel for the fire. No man will have mercy on his brother. But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand and not be satisfied. Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh. Together they shall besiege Judah.

For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

“Woe to those who write evil things, for when they write such things, they turn aside judgment from the poor, and rob judgment from the needy of My people, that the widow may be their prey and the orphan a spoil. What will they do in the day of

visitation? For affliction will come to you from afar, and to whom will you flee for help? Where will you leave your glory, so as not to fall into captivity?” For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 12, 13, 14

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“Moreover you are men.

Surely wisdom will die with you?

But I also have a heart as well as you.

“A righteous and blameless man

Has become an object of mockery.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

Under the power of others at the appointed time,

And his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

Let not, however, any one be persuaded

That, if he is evil, he will be held innocent.

Let not those who provoke the Lord

Be persuaded there will be no trial for them.

“But now ask the four-footed animals if they may speak to you,

And the birds of the air if they may report it to you.

Tell the earth if it may interpret it to you,

And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among all these does not know

The hand of the Lord created them,

That in His hand is the life of every living thing,

And the breath of every man?

For indeed, the ear discerns words,

And the palate tastes wheat.

In length of time is wisdom,

And in long life, knowledge.

“With Him are wisdom and power;

With Him are counsel and understanding.

If He tears down a house, who will build it up again?

If He closes a door against men, who will open it?

If He withholds the water, He will dry up the earth;

If He lets it loose, He will destroy and ruin it.

With Him are might and strength.

He has knowledge and understanding.

He leads counselors away captive
And makes fools of judges.

He sets kings upon thrones
And binds their waist with a belt.

He sends priests away into captivity

And overthrows the mighty of the earth.

He changes the lips of the faithful
And knows the understanding of elders.

He pours dishonor on rulers
And heals the humble.

He uncovers deep things out of darkness

And has brought into light the shadow of death.

He leads the nations astray and destroys them.

He overthrows the nations and leads them away.

He changes the hearts of rulers

And leads them astray in a way they have not known.

May they grope in darkness,

And may they go astray like a drunken man.

“Behold, my eye has seen all these things,

And my ear has heard them.

What you know, I also know;

I am not of lesser understanding than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the Lord

And will reason before Him if He wills.

For you are all dishonest physicians and healers of diseases.

But would that you were silent,

For it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the conviction of my mouth

And heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord

And utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

But you yourselves be judges.

Would it be well for you if He searched you out?

For if you make every effort to join yourselves to Him,

He will surely rebuke you if you also secretly show favoritism.

Will not His terror make you dizzy

And His fear fall upon you?

In the end, your insolence will go away like ashes

And your body like clay.

“Be silent, that I may speak

And put my anger to rest,

So I may take my flesh in my teeth

And put my life in my hand.

Though the Mighty One should lay His hand upon me,

And already He has begun,

I will speak and reason before Him.

This will turn for me into salvation,

For there shall be no deceit before Him.

Listen, listen to my words,

For I will report them in your hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:

I know I shall appear righteous.

Who is he who will judge me,

That I should now be silent and
be wanting?

“Grant me two things,
Then I will not hide my face from
You:

Withdraw Your hand far from me,
And let not the fear of You terrify
me.

Then You will call, and I will obey
You;

Or You will speak, then I will give
You an answer.

How many are my sins and trans-
gressions?

Teach me what they are.

Why do You hide Yourself from
me

And regard me as Your enemy?

Will You take heed of me as a leaf
shaken by the wind?

Or will You set Yourself against
me as grass blown by the wind?

For You wrote evil things against
me

And compassed me with the sins
of my youth.

You have put my foot in the
stocks,

Have watched all my works,

And have penetrated into the
roots of my feet,

Which have become old like a
wineskin

Or like a moth-eaten garment.

“For mortal man born of woman

Is short-lived and full of wrath.

He falls like a flower that blooms,

And like a shadow, he does not
continue.

Have You not taken account of
him

And brought him to judgment
before You?

For who shall be pure from un-
cleanness? No one.

Even if his life is but one day up-
on the earth,

His months are numbered by You.

You appointed a time for him, and
he cannot exceed it.

Depart from him that he may rest,

And let him be pleased with his
life as a hired laborer.

“For there is hope for a tree, even
if it is cut down,

That it will sprout again, and its
tender shoots will not fail.

For though its root may grow old
in the earth

And its stump may die in the
rocky ground,

Yet at the scent of water it will
bud

And bring forth a crop like one
newly planted.

But a man who dies is utterly
gone,

And when a mortal has fallen, he
is no more.

For in time the sea is drawn down,

And a river stops flowing,

And the river bed dries up.

So too, when man falls asleep in
death, he will not rise,

For the dead will not awake until
heaven is dissolved.

“For would that You had kept me
in the grave,

That You had hidden me until
 Your wrath ceases,
 And that You would appoint me a
 set time
 In which You would remember
 me.
 For will man live again
 After he completes his course of
 life and dies?
 I will wait until I arise.
 Then You will call, and I will an-
 swer You,
 But do not cast away the works of
 Your hands.
 For You have numbered my prac-
 tices,
 And not one of my sins will es-
 cape You.
 You sealed up my lawlessness in a
 bag
 And marked if I transgressed un-
 willingly.

“Truly a mountain falls and crum-
 bles in pieces;
 And a rock wears out in its place.
 Waters wear away stones,
 And overflowing torrents wash
 away the soil of the earth;
 And You destroy the duration of
 man.
 You push him to his end, and he
 is gone.
 You set your face against him and
 send him away.
 If his children multiply them-
 selves, he does not know it,
 And if they be few, he does not
 perceive it.
 But the muscles of his body feel
 pain,
 And his soul grieves.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Thursday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 18:17-19:29*

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide
 from Abraham, My servant, what I
 am about to do? But Abraham shall
 surely become a great and populous
 nation, and in him all the nations of
 the earth shall be blessed. For I know
 he will order his sons and his house
 after him. They will keep the way of
 the Lord, to do righteousness and

judgment, that the Lord may bring
 upon Abraham what He has spoken
 to him.” Then the Lord said, “The
 outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah
 has been completed, and their sins are
 exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go
 down now and see whether or not
 they are carrying out the outcry
 coming to Me concerning them.”

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Then the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." So Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: But suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" He replied, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." Again he spoke to Him and said, "But suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of forty." Then he said, "Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it if I should find thirty there." Again he said, "Since I have permission to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of twenty." Then he said, "Let not the Lord be

offended, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

So the Lord went His way as soon as He finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. So when he saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed with his face toward the ground. Then he said, "Behold, my lords, turn in to your servant's house and rest and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." But they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Now before they went to sleep, the men of the city, the Sodomites, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. Thus they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them." But Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, "By no means, my brethren, do not act wickedly. I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have

come under the protection of my roof.”

But they said, “Stand back! You came in to sojourn among us. Was it also to be making judgments? Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands, pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, and they became weary trying to find the door.

Now the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here in the city: sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone? — then take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because their outcry has become great before the Lord, and the Lord sent us to destroy it.” So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord is about to wipe out this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Now when the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and the two daughters you have, and get out, lest you be destroyed with the transgressions of the city.” But they were thrown into confusion, and the Lord being merciful to him, the angels seized his hand, and the hands of his wife and two daughters, and brought them outside the city.

So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, they said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be overtaken.” Then Lot said to them, “I pray, O Lord, since Your servant found mercy in Your sight, and You magnified Your righteousness which You showed me by saving my life, nevertheless, I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city, which is small, is near enough to flee to for refuge, and I shall escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.” And He said to him, “See, I have acquiesced to you on this matter also, in that I will not overthrow this city, concerning which you have spoken. Therefore, hurry to escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” For this reason he called the name of that city Zoar.

Now the sun rose upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven. Thus He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Then Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the

plain; and he saw, and behold, a flame was ascending from the land, like the smoke of a furnace. So it came to pass, when God wiped out all the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of

the midst of the destruction, when the Lord overthrew the cities where Lot had dwelt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Proverbs 2:17-3:4

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel,

Nor forsake the teaching of your youth

And forget the divine covenant;

For it establishes its house with death,

And its paths beside Hades with the dead;

All who journey there do not return,

Nor do they lay hold of straight paths;

For they do not comprehend the years of life.

For if they walked in good paths,

They would find the smooth paths of righteousness.

The inhabitants of the land will be good,

And the simple will be left in it;

For the upright will dwell in the land,

And the holy will be left in it.

The ways of the ungodly shall perish from the land,

And the lawless shall be banished from it.

My son, do not forget my laws,

But let your heart keep my words;

For length of days, and years of life and peace

They will add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you,

But hang them upon your neck;

And you will find grace

And provide good things before the Lord and men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 11:10-12:2

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“It shall come to pass in that day that there shall be a Root of Jesse who shall arise to rule nations. The Gentiles shall hope in Him, and His resting place shall be honorable.” It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will show His hand again to be

zealous for the remnant left of His people: left by the Assyrians and by Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia, and by the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia. He shall set up a sign for the Gentiles and will assemble the lost ones of Israel. He

shall gather together the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the enemies of Judah shall be destroyed. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim. But they shall spread sails on the ships of foreigners, and together they shall plunder the sea and the people of the East and Edom. They shall lay their hands first on Moab, but the sons of Ammon shall obey them first. The Lord shall make desolate the Sea of Egypt, and He will lay His hand on the river with a violent wind, and will strike the

seven channels, that men might pass across it in sandals. "There shall be a highway for the remnant of My people in Egypt, and it will be for Israel as in the day he came out of the land of Egypt."

And in that day, you will say, "I will bless You, O Lord. Although You were angry with me, You turned away Your anger and had mercy on me. Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Friday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord

delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

"Then the Lord said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten

image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

“Thus I prayed before the Lord; forty days and forty nights I kept praying, because the Lord said He would destroy you. Therefore, I prayed to God, and said, ‘O Lord, O Lord, O King of the gods, do not destroy Your people and Your portion You redeemed through Your great strength, whom You brought from the land of Egypt with Your great strength, Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself; do not look on the hardness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sins, lest those who inhabit the land You brought us from should say, “Because the Lord was unable to bring them to the land He promised them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the desert.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and outstretched arm.’

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone

like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on these tablets the words of the first tablets you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.' So I made an ark of wood not liable to decay, and hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, with the two tablets in my hands. Then He wrote the 'Ten Commandments on the tablets according to the first writing which the Lord spoke to you in the mountain, from the midst of the fire; and the Lord gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I made; and they were there, as the Lord commanded me."

(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died and

was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead. From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with rivers of water. At that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to minister to Him, and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, as He said to him.) "I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the Lord also heard me at that time, and the Lord chose not to destroy you. Then the Lord said to me, 'Go, and lead this people, so they may go in and inherit the land I swore to their fathers to give them.'

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Kings 23:25-24:23 1 Samuel 23:26-24:22

From the first book of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Saul and his men went on one side of this mountain, and David and his men on the other side of this mountain. And David was hiding himself to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hasten and come here quickly, for the Philistines have invaded the land!" Therefore Saul turned back from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, "David is in the desert of En Gedi." Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaïem. On the way, he came across a flock of sheep, and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. And David's men said to him,

“Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective.” So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Then it happened that David’s heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. And David said to his men, “The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul.

So Saul got up from the cave and went his way. After Saul departed, David went out from the cave and cried out to Saul, saying, “My lord, O king!” And Saul looked back, and David, bowing to the ground, prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your life?’ Take notice! This day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave; but I would not kill you. I spared you and said, ‘I will not put my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ Here in my hand is the corner of your robe! I cut off the corner, but did not kill you. See and know today, there is no evil or impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me

from you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the ancient proverb says, ‘Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.’ Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand.”

And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Truly this is your voice, O son David.” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you repaid me with good, but I repaid you with evil. Today you make known how you dealt well with me, how when the Lord delivered me into your hand today, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy in distress and yet in a good way sends him out, the Lord will reward him with good, just as you did today. And now behold, I know that you shall be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hands. Therefore by the Lord, swear now to me that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.” So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 13:2-13

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance

shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. “I will command evils for all the inhabited world and the ungodly because of their sins, and I will destroy the insolence of the lawless and humble the haughtiness of the arrogant. Those left behind will be more valuable than fine gold tried in the fire, and a man more precious than the stone of Ophir. For heaven will be angry, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day His anger comes.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 15:1-35

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

“Will a wise man give as an answer a breath of understanding,

And does he satisfy the pain in his belly,

Arguing with sayings which are not necessary

And with words wherein is no profit?

Have you not moreover cast off fear

And accomplished such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

Nor have you discerned the words
of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and
not I;

For your lips will testify against
you.

“What? Are you the first man who
was born?

Or were you made before the
beaches?

Have you heard the doctrine of
the Lord,

And has wisdom come only to
you?

What do you know that we do
not?

What do you understand that we
do not also?

Both the aged and the very old are
among us,

Much older than your father.

You have been punished for only
a few of your sins;

You have spoken haughtily and
exceedingly.

Why has your heart dared,

Or what are your eyes set on,

That you have vented your anger
before the Lord

And brought forth such words
from your mouth?

“For who is the mortal that shall
be blameless,

Or who is born of a woman that
shall be righteous,

Since He does not trust His saints

And heaven is not pure in His
sight?

Alas then, detestable and unclean
is a man

Who drinks wrongdoings like wa-
ter!

“But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now
seen,

What wise men say.

They did not hide anything re-
ceived from their fathers.

To them alone the earth was giv-
en,

And no stranger came among
them.

All the life of an ungodly man is
spent in anxiety,

And the years granted an oppres-
sor are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

And when he at last seems to be at
peace,

His destruction comes.

Let him not believe he will return
from darkness,

For he has already been given over
to the power of the sword.

He has been appointed to be food
for vultures,

And he knows in himself that he
lives in a dead body;

And a dark day will carry him
away like a whirlwind.

Trouble and anguish will come
upon him,

And like a general he will fall in
the first rank.

For he lifted his hands against the
Lord

And acted defiantly against the
Almighty Lord.

He ran in His sight with insolence,

With the thickness of his wide shield.

“For he covered his face with his fat

And put a collar upon his thighs.

May he lodge in deserted cities

And enter uninhabited houses;

And what they prepared, others will carry away.

Let him not grow rich, nor let his possessions remain;

Let him not cast a shadow upon the earth,

Neither let him escape the darkness.

Let the wind wither his blossom, and let his flower fall off.

Let him not believe he will endure, For futility will be his reward.

His harvest will perish before its gathering,

And his branch will not flourish.

May he be gathered prematurely like unripe grapes,

And may he fall off like the blossom of an olive tree.

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

And fire will burn the houses of those who take bribes.

So he will conceive sorrows, his end will be vain,

And his belly shall bear deceit.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 2:1-3:4

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy. (*)

Consider the ancient generations and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken?

Or who called upon Him and was overlooked?

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands,

And to a sinner who walks on two paths!

Woe to a fainting heart, because it does not believe!

Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

And those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

And those who love Him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts

And will humble their souls before Him.

We will fall into the hands of the Lord

And not into the hands of men;

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Give heed to me, O children, for I am your father,

And do what I tell you, that you may be saved.

For the Lord honored the father over the children

And strengthened the judgment of the mother over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for his sins;

And he who honors his mother

Is like one who stores up treasure.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

() Some books end the reading here.*

The Third Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 27:1-41a

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. Then make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son; and Esau went to the field to hunt game for his father. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, "Indeed, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the sheep and bring me from there two kids, choice and good, and I will make savory food from

them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it and bless you before his death."

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." But his mother said to him, "Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me." So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. She also put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the exposed part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob.

Thus he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" Jacob

said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac said to his son, "How is it you have found it so quickly, my son?" He said, "Because the Lord your God brought it to me." Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's." Thus he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, "Are you my son Esau?" He said, "I am."

He said, "Bring your game to me, my son, and I will eat from it, that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing.

Thus he blessed him and said:

"Surely, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field the Lord has blessed.

Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven

And of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brethren,

And let your mother's sons bow down to you.

And cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you."

Now it happened, as soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob his son, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed, he shall be blessed." When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!" But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing." Then Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing." So he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall

I do now for you, my son?” Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth,

And of the dew of heaven from above.

By your sword you shall live,
And you shall serve your brother;
And it shall come to pass, when you become restless,

That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Thus Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaia 14:24-32

From the book of Isaia the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I said, so it shall come to pass. As I purposed, so it shall remain—to destroy the Assyrians in My land and on My mountains. They shall be for trampling underfoot, and their yoke shall be taken away; and their renown shall be removed from their shoulders.” This is the purpose the Lord purposed upon all the inhabited world. His hand is lifted up over all the nations of the inhabited earth. For who will reject what the holy God purposed? Who will turn away His uplifted hand?

In the year King Ahaz died, this word came: “Do not be glad, all you

foreigners, for the yoke of him who struck you is broken to pieces. For from the seed of serpents shall come forth the young asps, and their offspring shall be flying serpents. The poor will be fed by him, and poor men will rest in peace, but he shall destroy your seed with hunger, and he will destroy your remnant. Wail, gates of the cities, cry out, troubled cities, even all the foreigners, for smoke is coming from the north, and you will be no more!” What will the kings of the nations answer? For the Lord founded Zion, and the humble of His people shall be saved.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 16, 17

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:

“I have heard many such things;

You are all bad comforters.

What order is there in words of wind?

Or what troubles you, that you answer thus?

I also could speak as you do,

If indeed your soul were in my soul’s place.

Then I would attack you with words

And shake my head at you.

But would there were strength in my mouth:

Then I would not spare the movement of my lips.

“If I should speak, I would feel the pain of my wound,

But if I also should be silent, how would I be less wounded?

But now He has made me weary and a worn-out fool,

And you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testimony.

It rises up and argues against me to my face.

He vented His wrath and struck me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

The arrows of the raiders fell on me.

He attacked me with the sharp darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek;

With one accord they ran me down.

For the Lord delivered me into the hands of an unjust man

And cast me upon the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He rejected me.

He took me by the hair of my head and pulled it out.

He set me up as a mark.

They surrounded me with spears aimed at my mind.

Without sparing me, they poured out my gall on the ground.

Running at me with all their strength,

They knocked me down, head over heels.

I sewed sackcloth on my skin,

And my strength is spent on the ground.

My belly is on fire because of weeping,

And shade is on my eyelids.

Yet there was no wrongdoing in my hands,

And my prayer is pure.

O earth, do not cover the blood of my flesh,

Nor may my cry have a place.

Now behold, my witness is in the heavens,

And the One who knows me thoroughly is on high.

May my supplication come before the Lord,

And may my eyes pour out tears in His presence.

May there be rebuttal for a man before the Lord,

As a son of man with his neighbor.

For my years are numbered,

And I shall go the way of no return.

“I am perishing, carried away by the wind;

And I ask for a burial-place, but cannot obtain it.

I am tired of entreating, yet what have I done?

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is he? Let him join hands with me.

For You hid their heart from discernment;

Therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will declare evils as their portion,

But my eyes melt away because of my children.

“But You made me a byword among the people,

And I have become an object of laughter to them.

For my eyes are petrified because of Your wrath,

And I am greatly besieged by everyone.

Amazement seizes true men because of this,

And the righteous man rises against the lawless man.

May the faithful man hold to his way,

And may those who have clean hands take courage.

“Nevertheless, all of you stick together,

And indeed come, for I did not find you to be true.

My days have passed in groaning

And my heartstrings are broken.

Light turned night into day.

It is near at the appearance of darkness.

If I tarry, Hades is my home,

And my bed is spread in darkness.

I called upon death to be my father

And decay to be my mother and my sister.

Where then is my hope,

Or where shall I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

Or shall we go down together in the tomb?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 28:10-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his

head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord

stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the

house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father's house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God's house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 25:1-26:9a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the

wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that

day, "Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation." For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: "Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall.

Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 18:1-21

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

"How long will you keep talking?

Pay close attention so we may also speak.

Why have we been silent before you

Like four-footed animals?

Wrath possesses you. Suppose you die;

Would the earth under heaven be uninhabited,

Or the mountains be overturned from their foundations?

"The light of the ungodly will go out,

And their flame will not go up.

His light shall be dark in his dwelling,

And his lamp beside him shall be put out.

May the least of men pounce on his goods,

And let his counsel stumble him.

For his foot has been caught in a snare,

And he is entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him.

He shall strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

A snare is hidden in the ground for him,

And a capture awaits him on the beaten paths.

May sorrows destroy him on every side;

And may many enemies come about him

And plague him with severe hunger,

For a destruction out of the ordinary is prepared for him.

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

For death will consume his beauty.

May health be banished from his dwelling,

And may distress seize him because of a royal decree.

It shall dwell in his tent at night,

And his goodly appearance shall be sown with brimstone.

His roots shall be dried out from below,

And his crop shall be trampled from above.

His memory shall perish from the earth,

And his name shall be remembered no more.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He shall not be known among his people,

Nor his house preserved on the earth;

But others shall live among his possessions.

The last groaned for him, and wonder seized the first.

These are the dwellings of wrongdoers,

And this is the place of those who do not know the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 8:1-10:1

From the Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not contend sharply with a powerful man,

Lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

Lest he resist your force,

For gold has destroyed many

And perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend sharply with a talkative man,

And do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with an uncultivated man,

Lest your forefathers be insulted.

Do not insult a man who turns away from sin;

Remember that we are all valuable.

Do not dishonor a man in his old age,

For some of us are growing old as well.

Do not rejoice over any dead person;

Remember that we all must die.

Do not disregard a saying of the wise,

But be conversant with their proverbs;

Because from them you will gain instruction

And how to serve noble people.

Do not miss a saying of the old,

For they themselves learned from their fathers;

Because from them you will gain understanding

And be able to give an answer in time of need.

Do not kindle the coals of a sinner,

For you may be burned by his flame.

Do not let the presence of an insolent man

Arouse you from your seat,

Lest he lie in wait as an ambush against your words.

Do not lend to a man stronger than you;

But if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety beyond your ability to pay;

But if you do give surety, be as careful as one who has to pay.

Do not go to law against a judge,

For they will decide for him because of his reputation.

Do not travel on a journey with a reckless man,

Lest he weigh you down;

For he will do his will,

And you will perish with him in his folly.

Do not cause a fight with an angry man,

And do not go into a lonely place with him,

Because murder is as nothing in his eyes,

And where there is no help, he will strike you down.

Do not consult with a fool,

For he will not keep a matter confidential.

Do nothing confidential in the presence of a stranger,

For you do not know what he will give birth to.

Do not open your heart to everyone,

Lest unkindness be shown to you.

Do not be jealous of the wife of your bosom

And so teach her an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

To let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a woman who is a courtesan,

Lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

Lest you be caught in her schemes.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

Lest you stumble and pay damages for her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look around in the streets of a city,

And do not wander about in its deserted sections.

Turn your eye away from a woman with a shapely figure,

And do not gaze at beauty belonging to another.

Many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman,

And erotic love is like a burning fire.

Never dine with another man's wife,

And do not share in parties with her over wine,

Lest your soul turn aside to her,

And you slip and with your spirit fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

For a new one is not equal with him.

A new friend is like new wine;

Drink it with pleasure only after it ages.

Do not envy the honor given a sinner,

For you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly;

Remember, they will not be declared righteous even in Hades.

Keep far away from a man who has the power to kill,

And you will not be anxious about the fear of death.

But if you come near him, do not offend him,

Lest he take away your life.

Know that you are stepping in the midst of snares

And walking about the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbors as best you can

And consult with those who are wise.

Let your reasoning be with those who are wise,

And let all your talk be about the law of the Most High.

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

And let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord.

A work will be praised for the skill of its craftsmen,

And a wise leader of people for the skill of his words.

A talkative man is regarded with fear in his city,

And a man who is reckless in his speech will be hated.

A wise leader will educate his people,

And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 7:14-8:15

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to

let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the

water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. Then you shall say to him, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert"; but indeed, until now you would not hear. Thus says the Lord: "By this you shall know I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river." ' ' Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron your brother, "Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.' "

So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as

the Lord said. Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. The frogs shall come up on you, your people, and all your servants." ' ' "

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron your brother, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.' " So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers did the same with their sorceries and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, and let Him take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord." Moses replied to Pharaoh,

“Appoint me a time when I shall pray for you, for your servants, and for your people to make the frogs disappear from you, your people, and your houses. Only in the river will they remain.” So Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow.” Moses then said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know this is none other than the Lord. Now the frogs shall depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. Then they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. But when Pharaoh

saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.’” Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joel 3:1-5

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. And I shall give wonders in the heavens and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into

darkness and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 1:1-22

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, "Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God." Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, "Where did you come from?" So the devil answered the Lord and said, "I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven."

Then the Lord said to him, "Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?" So the devil answered and said before the Lord, "Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face." Then the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him." Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job's sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, "The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then raiders came and took them captive and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, "Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother, and suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped, saying, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

In all these things that happened, Job did not sin against the Lord or charge God with folly.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 26:21-27:9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the inhabitants of the earth, and the earth will uncover its blood and will not cover its slain.

In that day, God will bring His holy, great, and strong sword upon the fleeing dragon serpent, the perverse dragon serpent that flees; and He shall destroy the dragon. In that day, there shall be a beautiful vineyard, and a desire to begin a hymn against a city: "I am a strong city, a besieged city; I water it in vain; for it shall be taken at night, and its wall shall fall by day. There is no woman who has not taken hold of it. Who will appoint me to guard straw in a field? I rejected it because of this enemy. For that very reason therefore, the Lord God did all the things

He ordered. I am burned down." Those who dwell in it will cry out, "Let us make peace with Him, let us make peace." Those who come are the children of Jacob. Israel shall bud and put forth flowers, and the inhabited earth shall be filled with its fruit. As he struck, shall he not be thus struck? As he slew, shall he not be thus slain? Fighting and denouncing he shall send them away. Did you not think with a harsh spirit about killing them in a spirit of anger? Therefore the lawlessness of Jacob will be removed; and this is his blessing when I take away his sin, when they make all the stones of the altars beaten like fine dust. Their trees do not remain, and their idols shall be cut down like a distant forest.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Thursday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 32:2-30

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's encampment"; and he called the name of that place Encampments.

Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says, "I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight." ' ' ' Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him." So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. Thus Jacob said, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape."

Again Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, 'Return to the land of your nativity,

and I will deal well with you,' let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "

So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves." And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are

these going before you?’ Then you shall say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’ ” So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’ ” For he said to himself, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left

alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men.”

Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And he said, “Why do you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God: “For I saw God face to face, and my soul was saved.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 28:14-22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, “We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected”; therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him

will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult

straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and

His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 20:1-29

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“I did not suppose you would answer in that way;

Nor do you understand more than I.

I will heed the discipline of my humiliation,

And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

“Have you not heard these things of old—

From the time man was put on the earth?

For the gladness of the ungodly is a disastrous fall,

And the joy of transgressors is destruction.

Though his gifts ascend to heaven

And his sacrifice touches the clouds,

Just when he already seems to be established,

Then he shall utterly perish;

And those who knew him will say, ‘Where is he?’

Like a dream he flew away and cannot be found;

And he fled like a vision of the night.

The eye observed him, but will see him no more;

Nor will his place any longer behold him.

May his children perish,

And may his vile hands kindle the fire of sorrows.

His bones were full of his youthful vigor,

Which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth,

And he will hide it under his tongue,

Though he will not spare it and will not forsake it,

But will hold it fast in the midst of his throat,

Yet he shall be unable to help himself,

For the gall of an asp is in his belly.

His wealth gathered unjustly shall be vomited up,

And a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he nurse on the anger of serpents;

And may a snake’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

Nor his supplies of honey and butter.

In vain he has labored unprofitably for wealth,

Of which he will not taste;

For it is like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he crushed the houses of many weak people.

He plundered their dwelling and caused it to cease.

“There is no salvation in his possessions,

For he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his good things will not flourish.

But when he at last seems to be satisfied, he will be distressed,

For every trouble will come upon him.

If he were to satisfy his stomach in some way,

Let God send the fury of wrath upon him,

And may He bathe him in sorrows.

He will not be saved from the power of the sword;

May a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pass through his body,

And may lightning strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that will not go out will consume him.

May a stranger ruin his house.

May heaven uncover his lawlessness,

And may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

And may a day of wrath come upon him.

This is the portion of an ungodly man from the Lord,

And the heritage appointed to him from the One who watches him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 6:2-28

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

It pleased Darius to set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so they might be throughout his entire kingdom. He also set three administrators above these, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, that the king might not be troubled. But Daniel excelled beyond them, because

there was an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. The administrators and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel, but they could find no charge or wrongdoing or fault against him because he was faithful. Then the administrators said, “We will find

nothing against Daniel unless we find it in the laws of his God.”

So the administrators and the governors stood before the king and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now therefore, O king, establish the decree and exhibit the writing publicly, so the decree of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed.” Then King Darius gave orders to write the decree.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree was posted, he entered his house, where the windows facing Jerusalem were open to him in the upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks to his God, as he was doing before. Then those men watched Daniel closely and found him praying and making supplication before his God. So they approached the king and said, “O king, did you not give orders that any man who petitioned anything from any god or man, except from you, he would be cast into the den of lions?” The king replied, saying, “The word is true, and the decree of the Medes and Persians shall not pass away.”

Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is from the captives of Judea, does not obey

your order concerning the decree you commanded, for he prays and petitions his God three times a day.” Then when the king heard this word, he was very sad in himself, and he struggled hard to deliver Daniel, and did his best to deliver him until evening. Then those men said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute the king establishes can be altered.”

After that, the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” Then they brought a stone and placed it over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his ring and with the ring of his nobles, so the matter concerning Daniel might not be changed. The king then went to his house and spent the night without his evening meal; for they brought no meats to him, and his sleep departed from him. Now God shut the mouths of the lions, and they did not trouble Daniel.

Then the king arose early in the morning at daybreak and went in haste to the den of lions. As he approached the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they

did not destroy me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and I did no wrongdoing in His sight.”

Then the king rejoiced greatly over him and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den; and no corruption was found in him, because he believed in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought the men who brought charges against Daniel; and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. They did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Now Darius the king wrote to all peoples, tribes, and languages who dwell in all the earth:

“May peace be multiplied to you.

“A decree was made in my presence, that in every dominion of my kingdom, men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, because He is the living God; He endures unto the ages. His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall continue to the end. He helps and rescues, and works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Friday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His ordinances I command you today for your good? Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you

above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God;

you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy-five souls, and now, the Lord your God made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

“Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, and always keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His judgments. Know today, I do not speak with your children, who have not known and seen the chastening of the Lord your God, nor His greatness and mighty hand and outstretched arm—the signs and wonders He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horse and chariots; how He made the water of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord destroyed them to this day; what He did for you in the desert until you came to this place; and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up in the midst of Israel, along with their households, tents, and all the substance in their possession—but your eyes saw all the great works the Lord did for you today.

“Therefore, you shall keep all His commandments I command you today, that you may live and increase and go in and inherit the land you are

crossing the Jordan to inherit, and may prolong your days in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, to them and their seed after them, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ For the land you go to inherit is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land you are crossing over to inherit is a land of hills and plains, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land the Lord your God looks upon; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

“So if you earnestly obey all His commandments I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then He will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, wine, and olive oil. I will also send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be filled. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord’s anger be aroused against you and He shut up heaven, so there may be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land the Lord gave you.

“Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be immova-

ble before your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates, that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, like days of heaven on earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments I command you today—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—then the Lord will cast out all these nations from before your face, and you will inherit greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place the sole of your foot

treads shall be yours: from the desert and Antilebanon, and from the great Euphrates River, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against your face; the Lord your God will put the dread and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, in the manner the Lord said to you.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but go astray from the way I command you today, to go after different gods you have not known.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 29:13-23

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the Lord said, “These people draw near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and hide the understanding of the intelligent.” Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us or what we do?” Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is

molded of clay say to him who molded it, “You did not create me”? Or shall the work say to him who made it, “You did not make me wisely”? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, as well as

those who cause men to sin in word.
They shall make all who condemn at
the gates an offense, because they
turned aside the righteous man with
wrongdoing. Therefore the Lord says
this concerning the house of Jacob,
whom He set apart out of Abraham:
“Now Jacob shall not be ashamed,

nor shall Israel now change his
countenance. But when their children
see My works, they shall sanctify My
name for My sake, and will sanctify
the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the
God of Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 21:1-34

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered and said:
“Listen carefully to my words,
That I may not have this consol-
ation from you.

Bear with me and I will speak;
Then you will stop laughing at me.
“What? Is there any one who does
not blame me?

Or why should I not be furious?
Look at me and be astonished,
And put your hand over your
mouth.

For even when I remember, I am
alarmed,

And pains take hold of my flesh.
Why do the ungodly live and be-
come old, even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to
their desire,

And their children are before their
eyes.

Their houses flourish, and they
have no cause for fear;

Neither is there any affliction
from the Lord upon them.

Their ox does not miscarry,
For it is preserved safe during
pregnancy

And does not suffer a mishap.

They remain as an unfailing herd,
And their children dance,
Taking up the psaltery and harp;
And they celebrate at the sound of
song.

They spend their life in their good
things

And fall asleep in the rest of the
grave.

Yet such a man says to the Lord,
‘Depart from me. I do not wish to
know Your ways.

What is a sufficient reason for us
to serve Him?

What benefit is it for us to meet
Him?’

For their good things are in their
power,

For He does not take notice of the
works of the ungodly.

“Nevertheless, the lamp of the
ungodly will be put out.

Destruction shall come upon
them,

And the sorrows of wrath will
seize them.

They are like chaff before the
wind,

And they are like dust a storm carries away.

May his possessions fail to supply his children.

God will recompense him, and he will not know it.

May his eyes see his own slaughter,

And may he not be saved by the Lord.

For is his will not in his house with himself?

But the number of his months has been apportioned.

“Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

Does not He judge murders?

One shall die in the strength of his simplicity,

And wholly at ease and prosperous.

His innards are full of stiff fat,

And the marrow of his bones is dissipated.

Another dies under bitterness of soul,

Not eating any good thing.

They lie down together in the earth,

And decay covers them.

Thus I know you press me recklessly.

You will say, ‘where is the house of the ruler?

Where is the shelter of the dwelling place of the ungodly?’

Ask those who travel the road,

And do not overlook their signs.

For the evil man makes light of the day of destruction,

But they shall be led away in the day of His wrath.

Who will tell him his way to his face?

Who will recompense him for what he has done?

Yet he is brought to the grave,

And a vigil is kept over the coffin.

The pebbles of the valley have been sweet to him.

Every man shall depart after him,

As countless have departed before him.

How then can you comfort me with empty words,

Since I have no rest from you?”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 14:2-42 (Bel and the Serpent 2-42)

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Daniel was a confidant of the king and was honored above all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol whose name was Bel, and every day they spent on it twelve bushels of fine flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of wine. The king adored it and went

every day to worship it; but Daniel worshiped his own God. So the king asked him, “Why do you not worship Bel?” Daniel answered, “Because I do not worship idols made with hands, but only the living God who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all flesh.” The king said to him,

“Do you not think Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?” Daniel smiled and said, “Do not be deceived, O king, for it is but clay inside and bronze outside, and it has never eaten or drunk anything.”

Very angry, the king summoned his priests and said to them, “If you do not tell me who it is that consumes these provisions, you shall die. But if you can prove Bel consumes them, then Daniel shall die, because he blasphemed against Bel.” So Daniel said to the king, “Let it be according to your word.”

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple. Then the priests of Bel said, “Look, we will step outside. You, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, then shut the door and seal it with your signet. If you do not find Bel has eaten it all when you come tomorrow, we will suffer death—or else Daniel shall die, who speaks lies against us.” They were unconcerned, for under the table they had made a secret entrance through which they always came in to consume the provisions.

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food for Bel. And Daniel ordered his servants to bring in ashes, which they sprinkled throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door, sealed it with the king’s signet, and departed.

During the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king rose early the next morning, and Daniel with him. Then the king said, “Are the seals intact, Daniel?” Daniel answered, “They are intact, O king.” As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table and cried out in a loud voice, “Great are you, O Bel, and with you there is no deceit at all.” Then Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. He said, “Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are.” The king replied, “I see the footprints of men, women, and children.” With great anger, the king seized the priests and their wives and children, and they showed him the hidden doors where they came in and consumed such things as were upon the table. Therefore the king put them to death and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

There was also a large serpent the people of Babylon worshiped. So the king said to Daniel, “Will you also say this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, he eats, and he drinks—you cannot say he is no living god. Therefore worship him.” Daniel replied, “I will worship the Lord my God; for He is the living God. But with your permission, O king, I shall slay this serpent without sword or staff.” The king said, “I will give my permission.” Then Daniel took pitch,

tar, and hair; these he boiled together and made cakes, and put them in the mouth of the serpent. The serpent ate them and burst open. Then Daniel said, "Behold the things you have been worshiping."

Now when the people of Babylon heard what had been done, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, "The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death." Going to the king, they said, "Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house." Now when the king saw they were pressing him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They threw Daniel into the lions' den, where he was left for six days. Now there were seven lions in the den, and they had to give them two carcasses every day and two sheep. But these things were not given to them now, so they might devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the fields to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said unto Habakkuk, "Go, carry the

dinner you have into Babylon to Daniel, who is in the lions' den." Habakkuk said, "O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, nor do I know the den." Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. Habakkuk cried out, saying, "O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal God has sent you." Daniel said, "You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You." So Daniel arose and ate; and the angel of the Lord immediately set Habakkuk down in his own place once more.

After this, on the seventh day the king went to the lions' den to mourn for Daniel, and he came to the pit and looked inside—and there sat Daniel. The king cried out with a loud voice, "Great are You, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides You." Then he drew him out of the den, and cast in those who had plotted Daniel's destruction; and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 3:5-20a

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Trust in God with all your heart,
And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,
That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.
Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

And nothing evil will withstand her;

She is well known to all who come near her,

And no honor is worthy of her.

For length of days and years of life are in her right hand,

And in her left hand are riches and glory;

Righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

And she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

And all her paths are in peace.

She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 37:33-38:6

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: 'He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way he came, by the same shall he return,' says the Lord. 'I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' "

Then the Angel of the Lord went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, they discovered all the dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, then escaped into the land of

Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' " Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and did what is pleasing in Your sight." So Hezekiah wept loudly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I heard your prayer, I see your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will protect this city." ' "

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 22:1-30

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

"Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

For what concern is it to the Lord
If you were blameless in your works?

Or what profit is it to Him to make plain your ways?

Will He argue with you while you plead your case?

Will He enter into judgment with you?

Is not your vice plentiful,

And are not your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges from your brethren for no reason

And taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

But have even withheld a morsel from the hungry.

You have also admired the personality of some

And have transplanted those already settled on earth.

You have sent widows away empty

And have mistreated orphans.

Therefore snares are all around you,

And a serious war has troubled you.

The light has turned to darkness for you,

And water has covered you as you fell asleep.

“Does not He who dwells on high take notice of all?

Does He not humble those who move about with insolence?

But you say, ‘What does the Mighty One know?

Will He judge down into the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding place, so He cannot see

As He travels through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep to the old path

Which wrongdoers have trod,

Who were seized before their time

And whose foundations were swept away by a flood;

Who said, ‘What will the Lord do to us?’

Or, ‘What will the Almighty bring upon us?’

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

But the counsel of the ungodly is far from Him.

“The righteous have seen it and laughed,

And the innocent mocked them.

Surely their substance has perished,

And fire will consume what is left.

Eliphaz Exhorts Job to Be Strong

“Be strong, therefore. If you endure,

Then your fruit shall be in good things.

Receive utterance from His mouth

And lay up His words in your heart.

If you return and humble yourself before the Lord,

You have caused wrongdoing to be far from your dwelling.

Then you will lay up treasure for yourself

Like a mound on a rock,

And you shall be like the gold of Ophir

On a rock in the brooks.

So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

And He will restore you as pure as silver purged by fire.

For then you will speak freely before the Lord,

Looking up cheerfully to heaven.
When you pray to Him, He will hear you,
And He will allow you to pay your vows.
He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,
And there shall be light on your paths.

You will say, 'He behaved arrogantly, but he humbled himself,
And He will save him who bows down with his eyes.'
He will deliver the innocent,
And you will save yourself in the purity of your hands."
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Numbers 10:34-11:35

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass that when they broke camp with the ark, Moses said, "Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let all who hate You flee." And when the ark rested, he said, "Return, O Lord, to the many thousands in Israel!" The cloud also overshadowed them by day when they broke camp.

Now the people were grumbling evilly before the Lord, and the Lord heard them and was provoked to anger. So the fire of the Lord burned among them and utterly destroyed part of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord; and the fire was quenched. So he called the name of the place Burning, because fire from the Lord burned among them.

Now the mixed multitude among them hungered exceedingly; and

sitting down, the children of Israel were also weeping, and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes except this manna." Now the manna is like coriander seed, and its form is like the form of ice pellets. The people would go about and gather it, and grind it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, then cook it in pots, and make cakes of it; and its flavor was like the taste of a pastry prepared with oil and honey. And when the dew descended on the camp in the night, the manna descended upon it.

Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their tribes, everyone at his door; and the anger of

the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You maltreated Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the wrath of this people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' I am not able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, kill me here and now—if I find mercy in Your sight—and do not let me see my maltreatment."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone. Then you shall say to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept before the Lord, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt." Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat. You shall eat,

not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month you shall eat, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?"' "

Then Moses said, "The people I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You are saying, 'I will give them meat, so they may eat for a whole month.' Shall sheep and oxen be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Is the Lord's hand unable to provide for them? Now you shall know whether or not My word will overtake you." So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord descended in the cloud and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they

prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Lord Moses, forbid them." Then Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them." So Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Now a wind went out from the Lord and brought birds from the sea that migrate together with quail, and cast them upon the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all

around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Then the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the birds (he who gathered least gathered ten cors); and they spread the meat out to dry for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the Lord's anger was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place Graves of Lust, because there they buried the people who lusted. Then the people broke camp to go to Hazeroth, and they camped at Hazeroth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 3:21-4:8

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God by wisdom founded the earth
And prepared the heavens with
discernment.

With perception the depths were
broken up,

And the clouds flowed with dew.

My son, do not be careless,

But keep my counsel and thinking,

That your soul may live,

And grace may be around your
neck.

And there will be healing for your
flesh

And care for your bones,

That you may walk confidently in
peace in all your ways,

And your foot may not stumble.

For if you sit down, you will be
without fear,

And if you lie down, your sleep
will be pleasant.

And do not be afraid of intimidat-
ion when it comes upon you,

Nor of the attack of the ungodly
when it comes at you;

For the Lord will be over all your
ways,

And He will plant your feet firmly,
that you may not be shaken.

Do not withhold doing good to
the needy,

When you may give a helping
hand;

Do not say, when you are able to do good,

“Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something”;

For you do not know what the next day will bring forth.

Do not devise evil things against your friend

Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.

Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain,

Lest he do you some harm.

Do not incur the reproach of evil men,

Neither seek their ways;

For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord,

And he does not sit among the righteous.

The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly,

But He blesses the dwellings of the righteous.

The Lord opposes the arrogant,

But He gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But the ungodly exalt dishonor.

Hear, my children, the instruction of your father,

And pay attention, that you might know his thinking;

For I offer a good gift to you;

Do not forsake my law.

For I was a son, and I was obedient to my father,

And beloved in the presence of my mother,

Who taught me, saying,

“Let our word become firmly planted in your heart;

Guard our commandments; do not forget them;

Neither disregard the word of my mouth,

Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you;

Love it, and it will keep you.

Secure it, and it shall exalt you;

Honor it, that it may embrace you,

And give your head a crown of graces,

And cover you with a crown of delight.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 40:1-8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” 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.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass,

and all man's glory is like the flower
of the field. The grass withers, the

flower fades, but the word of our
God abides forever.'

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 25:1-26:14

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered
and said:

"What beginning or fear is His—

He who makes all things in the
highest heaven?

For may no one imagine there is a
respite for pirates.

Upon whom will there not be an
ambush from Him?

How shall a mortal be righteous
before the Lord?

Or how may he who is born of a
woman purify himself?

If He orders the moon, then it
does not shine,

And the stars are not pure in His
sight.

But alas! Man is putrid, and the
son of man a worm."

But Job answered and said:

"To whom are you attached,

Or whom are you going to help?

Is it not He who has great strength

And whose arm is powerful?

To whom have you given counsel?

Is it not to Him who has all wis-
dom?

Or whom will you follow?

Is it not One who has the greatest
power?

To whom have you spoken
words?

Whose breath came forth from
you?

"Will giants be born under the
water

And those inhabiting them?

Hades is naked before Him,

And destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind
upon nothing;

He hangs the earth on nothing.

He binds up the water in His
clouds,

Yet the cloud is not broken under
it.

He grasps the face of His throne

And spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the
water by an ordinance

Until the end of light and dark-
ness.

The pillars of heaven were spread
all over

And stood amazed at His rebuke.

He checked the sea with His pow-
er,

And by His understanding He
wounded the sea-monster.

For the bars of heaven fear Him,

Because He put to death the rebel-
lious dragon by a command.

Behold, these are parts of His way,
And we will hearken to the least of
His words.

But who knows when He will
bring about the strength of His

thunder?"

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 8:16-9:35

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go to serve Me in the desert. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send the dog-fly on you and your servants, and on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with the dog-fly, and also the ground on which they stand. Now on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no dog-fly be there, that you may know I am the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this shall be a sign in the land." ' ' ' So the Lord did thus; and the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt, and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land." But Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we

would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. We will go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us." Pharaoh then said, "I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord." Then Moses said, "Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord."

So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Thus the Lord did as Moses said and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people. Not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are ungodly. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the

hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer." So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord's. But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord." Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. Thus when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord said to Moses.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 41:4-14

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who worked and performed these things? He called righteousness, He who calls it from generations of old. I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One

will say, "The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer and forges at the same time." Sometimes one will say, "It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved."

"But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of

Abraham, whom I loved. I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you, 'You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand.' Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as

though they did not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. You shall seek but not find the men who rage against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they did not exist. For I am your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not.' O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel," says God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joel 4:9-21

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Proclaim these things among the nations: "Prepare for war; arouse the warriors; draw near and go up, all you men of war. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' Assemble together and join in, all you nations round about. And in that place, gather yourselves together; let the gentle be warlike. Let all the nations rouse themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit to judge all the nations round about.

"Bring out the sickles, for the harvest is ripe. Come in and tread the grapes, for the winepress is full, the wine vats overflow; for their wickedness is multiplied. The news resounded in the valley of judgment, for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of judgment. The sun and moon shall become dark, and the stars shall withdraw their light. And the Lord shall cry out from Zion, and He shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and

the heavens and earth will quake, but the Lord shall keep His people safe and shall strengthen the sons of Israel. So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, the one dwelling in Zion on My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be a holy city, and no more will strangers pass through her.

"And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip sweetness, and milk shall flow from the hills, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with water. And a fountain shall flow out from the house of the Lord, and it will supply water to the Valley of Acacias. Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a wilderness because of the wrongdoings against the people of Judah, because of the innocent blood shed in their land. But Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem unto generations of generations. And I shall avenge their blood and shall not let it go unpunished. The Lord shall dwell in Zion."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 28:12-28

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“But where can wisdom be found?
What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

The deep said, ‘It is not in me’;

And the sea said, ‘It is not with me.’

One shall not give massive piles of gold instead of it,

Nor can silver be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with the gold of Ophir,

With the precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal will equal it,

Nor can it be exchanged for vessels of gold.

No mention shall be made of coral and quartz,

But you must hold up wisdom above the most valued things.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,

Nor can it be compared with pure gold.

“From where then is wisdom found,

And what is the place of understanding?

It has been hidden from every man

And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Destruction and Death said,

‘We have heard about its fame.’

God has well established its way,

And He knows its place.

For He watches over the whole earth under heaven,

Knowing the things in the earth, all He has made—

The weight of the winds and the measures of the water.

When He made them, He numbered them

And made a way for the claps of thunder.

Then He saw wisdom and declared it;

He prepared it and traced it out.

He said to man, ‘behold, the fear of God is wisdom,

And to abstain from evils is understanding.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 4:9-18

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear me, my son, and receive my words,

And the years of your life shall be increased,

That many ways of life may be yours;

For I teach you the ways of wisdom

And set you on upright paths.

For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined;

And if you run, you will not grow weary.

Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go,

But guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

But turn aside from them and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;

Their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest;

For they feed on the bread of ungodliness,

And they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

They go before and give light until full daylight.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

They do not know how they stumble.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Kings 1:1-2:21 or 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21*

From the book of the First Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. He had two wives. The name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. To Hannah, he gave

one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah." And she said to him, "Here I am, lord." Then he said to her, "What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are

you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?" So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, "O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head."

And as she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. And as she spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. The servant of God said to her, "For how long will you remain drunk? Cast off your wine, and go out from the face of the Lord!" But Hannah answered and said, "No lord, I am a woman for whom this day is difficult. I drank neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. Do not consider your handmaiden a daughter of pestilence just because of the multitude of my idle words I have put forth." Then Eli answered and said to her, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you the petition you

asked of Him." And she said, "Your handmaiden has found favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped the Lord and went on their way back to Elkanah's house at Ramathaim. And he knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. She conceived, and it came to be at the appointed time she bore a son, and she called him Samuel and said, "Because I asked for him from the Lord God Sabaoth."

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vow, and the tenth portion of all his land. But Hannah did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until our boy is weaned from me. Then he will appear in the presence of the Lord and stay there continually." And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord confirm as true what was coming out of your mouth." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she weaned him.

And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf three years old, loaves of bread, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She came to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was with them. And they came before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering he made yearly to the

Lord. He brought the child and slaughtered the calf. Then Hannah, the mother of the young boy, went to Eli. And she said to him, "Lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who was standing near you while I prayed to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord gave me my request which I asked from Him. And I lend him to the Lord all the days which he lives to be fruitful to the Lord."

And she said:

"My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;
He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ."

They left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim, and the child performed the services before the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of scoundrels, not knowing the Lord. And the custom of the priest for the people who sacrificed was for the servant of the priest to come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. He would then thrust it into either the large kettle, or the brazen vessel, or the pot; and everything the meat-hook brought up, the priest would take for himself. So in Shiloh, they did this to all the Israelites who came there to sacrifice to the Lord. Also, before they burned the fat, the servant came and said to the man who sacrificed, "Give some meat to be roasted to the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat from out of the cauldron."

And if the man sacrificing said to him, "First he should burn the fat as

fitting, then you may take as much as your soul desires." But he would say, "No, you shall give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force." Therefore the sin of the servants is exceedingly great before the Lord, for they nullified the sacrifice of the Lord.

As a young boy, Samuel was serving before the Lord wearing a linen ephod of a servant. Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him once a year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan you made to the Lord." Then the man went to his place. And the Lord watched over Hannah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew and matured before the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 42:5-16

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people

in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give

You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the

tops of the mountains. They will give glory to God and declare His virtues in the coastlands. The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal, and cry out against His enemies with strength. I held My peace, and I will not always be silent and restrain Myself. Now I will be steadfast, like a woman in labor. I shall amaze and dry up together. I will make the rivers into coastlands and dry up marsh-meadows. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know, and will cause them to tread paths they have not known. I will turn darkness into light for them, and make crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 4:19-28

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, give heed to my word
And incline your ear to my words,
That your fountains may not fail
you;

Guard them in your heart;
For they are life to those who find
them

And healing for all their flesh.
Keep your heart with all watchful-
ness,

For from these words are the is-
sues of life.

Put away from yourself a crooked
mouth

And remove unrighteous lips far
from you.

Let your eyes look straight for-
ward,

And let your eyelids assent to
righteous things.

Make straight paths for your feet
And direct your ways aright.

Do not turn aside to the right or
to the left,

But turn your foot from an evil
way;

*[For God knows the ways on the
right hand,

But those on the left are perverse;
And He shall make your paths
straight

And guide your steps in peace.]*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**[] lacking in Oattawa and Southern United States. Found in Kitchener.*

Job 29:2-20

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Who may put me in months past,
As in the days when God protect-
ed me—

As when His lamp shone upon my
head,

And by His light I walked in the
darkness;

As when I steadfastly pursued my
ways,

When God’s visitation was over
my house;

As when I lived in abundance,

And my children were around me;

As when my roads spread out with
butter,

And the mountains flowed with
milk for me;

“As when I went early in the city,

And took my seat in the open
square;

The young men saw me and hid,

And all the old men stood up.

The great men refrained from
talking

And put their finger to their
mouth.

Those who heard me blessed me,

And their tongue stuck to their
throat.

The ear heard and blessed me,

And the eye saw me and turned
aside.

For I saved the poor from the
hand of the oppressor

And helped the orphan who had
no helper.

The blessing of the perishing man
came upon me,

And the widow’s mouth blessed
me.

I put on righteousness

And clothed myself with judgment
like a robe.

I was the eye of the blind and the
foot of the lame.

I was the father of the weak,

And I searched out the cause I did
not know.

I broke the molars of the wrong-
doers

And plucked the spoil from the
midst of their teeth.

“Then I said, ‘My age shall contin-
ue as the stem of a palm tree,

And I shall live a long while.’

My root was spread out to the
waters,

And the dew would settle on my
harvest.

My glory was fresh within me,

And my bow prospered in its
hand.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Kings 3:1-20 or 1 Samuel 3:1-20*

From the book of the First Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. So on that day, while Eli was lying down in his place, his eyes were starting to grow heavy, barely able to see. Before the lamp of God went out, and while Samuel was asleep in the temple where the ark of God was, the Lord called, "Samuel, Samuel." Samuel answered, "Here I am!" So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And Eli said, "I did not call you. Return and lie down." So he returned and lay down. Then the Lord called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" So Samuel went to Eli a second time, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Eli answered, "I did not call you. Return and lie down."

Now this all happened before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. And he said, "Return, lie down, my child; and if He calls you, you must say, 'O Lord, speak, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and fell asleep in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant

hears." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold! I shall execute My words in Israel, and for everyone hearing them, both ears will tingle. In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything I spoke concerning his house. This I will begin, and I will finish it. For I announced to him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and he did not correct them in any way. I swore to the house of Eli that the iniquity of the house of Eli shall never be atoned for with incense or with sacrifice."

So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord's house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called to Samuel, "Samuel, my child!" And he answered, "Here I am." And Eli said, "What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you." Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, "He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him."

So Samuel grew and matured, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the Lord.

Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land you are to inherit, you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Indeed are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of Canaan, the area that lies to the west near Gilgal, beside the lofty oak? For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to inherit the land the Lord your God is giving you; and you will inherit it all your days and dwell in it. Therefore, you shall be careful to do all the ordinances and judgments I set before you today.

“These are the ordinances and judgments you shall be careful to observe in the land the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to inherit, all the days you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places the nations you will inherit served their gods: on the high mountains, on the hills, and under the tree of the grove. So you shall destroy their altars, break their pillars, cut down their groves, burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and destroy their name from

that place. You shall not do thus with the Lord your God. But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called on there; and you shall go and seek Him there. There you shall bring your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, firstfruits, prayers, voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your oxen and sheep. There you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God blessed you.

“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—for as yet, you have not come to the rest and the inheritance the Lord your God gives you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, and you dwell in safety, then there will be the place the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all I command you today: your

whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the first fruits of your hands, and all your gifts and all your choice gifts you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself, do not offer your whole burnt offerings in every place you see; but in the place the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes; there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all I command you today.

“However, according to your every desire, you may slaughter and eat meat, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you in each city; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You may not eat the tithe in your cities: of your grain, wine, or olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen or sheep, of any of your offerings you vow, of your agreements, or of the firstfruits of your hands. But you must eat them before the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses, you and your son and daughter, your male and female servant, and the resident alien in your cities; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all to which you

put your hand. Take heed to yourself, do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

“Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your oxen and sheep the Lord gave you in the manner I commanded you, and may eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life; the life will not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. Only the holy things you have and your vowed offerings you shall take and go to the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall offer your whole burnt offerings; you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall eat the meat.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

3 Kings 17:2-24 or 1 Kings 17:2-24

From the Third book of Kings.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there." So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink." She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But the woman said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." But Elijah said to her, "Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says

the Lord, 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.' " So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.

Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son." But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, "Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son." Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him." So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 5:1-12

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, hold fast to wisdom
And incline your ear to my words,
That you may guard good thinking;

And I command you with the
perception of my lips.

Do not join yourself to a base
woman,

For honey drips from the lips of a
prostitute,

Or for a season she is pleasing to
your taste;

Afterward, however, you will find
her more bitter than gall

And sharper than a two-edged
sword.

For feet lacking discernment lead
those using her down into Hades with
death;

Her footsteps are not planted,

For she does not travel the ways
of life;

And her paths are slippery and not
easy to discern.

Now therefore, my son, hear me,
And do not make my words invalid;

Make your way distant from her
And do not come near the doors
of her house,

That you may not give away your
life to others

And your existence to the merciless;

That strangers may not be filled
with your strength,

And your labors go into the houses
of strangers,

And you should feel regret at the
last,

When the flesh of your body is
consumed;

And you will say, "How I hated
instruction

And turned my heart away from
reproofs."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 43:1-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And now, thus says the Lord God
who made you, O Jacob, and who
formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I
redeemed you. I called you by your
name, for you are Mine. If you pass
through water, I am with you; and the
rivers shall not overflow you. If you
pass through fire, you shall not be
burned up, nor shall the flame
consume you. For I am the Lord your

God, the Holy One of Israel, who
saves you. I made Egypt and Ethiopia
your ransom and gave Seba on your
behalf. Since you were precious in My
sight, you became glorious, and I love
you. I will give many men for you and
rulers to lead you. Fear not, for I am
with you; I will bring your seed from
the east, and gather you from the
west. I will say to the north, 'Bring

them,’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back. Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone called by My name.’ For in my glory I prepared him, and formed and made him. I brought forth the blind people, and their eyes are alike blind, and their ears deaf.” All the nations are gath-

ered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 30:9-32:5

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“But now I am their lyre,
And they have me as their by-word.

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

For He has opened His quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off restraint in my presence.

They rose up against me by the right hands of their offspring;

And they stretched out their foot

And directed against me their paths of destruction.

My paths are ruined, for they stripped off my garment.

He shot me down with His arrows

And used me as He wished.

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains are turned upon me.

My hope is gone like the wind

And my salvation like a cloud.

“Even now my soul will be poured forth upon me,

And the days of pains seize me.

By night my bones are set on fire,

And my sinews are broken up.

With great force He took hold of my garment,

And like the collar of my tunic He surrounded me.

You regarded me as clay in the earth,

And my portion is with ashes.

“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me.

They stood and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy

And scourged me with a strong hand.

You appointed pains for me

And cast me away from salvation.

For I know death will destroy me,

For the earth is the house for every mortal.

“Would that I might lay hands on myself,

Or at least ask another, and he would do it for me.

Yet I wept over every man without strength

And groaned when I saw a man in distress.

But while I held firmly to good things,

Days of evils happened to me instead.

My stomach churns and will not be quiet,

And days of poverty have come upon me.

I go groaning without restraint;

I stand up and cry out in the church.

I have become a brother of sirens

And a companion of sparrows.

My skin has been greatly darkened,

And my bones are burned by the heat.

My lyre turned into mourning

And my song into my weeping.

"I have made a covenant with my eyes,

And I will not think upon a virgin.

What has God apportioned from above,

And what is the inheritance of the Mighty One from on high?

Is not destruction for the wrongdoer,

And alienation for those who do lawlessness?

Will He not see my way and count all my steps?

"If I have walked with scorners,

Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

May He weigh me therefore with a just scale,

For He knows my integrity.

If my foot has turned from the way,

Or if my heart has followed after my eyes,

Or if gifts have touched my hands,
Then may I sow and others eat.

Yes, may I be uprooted on the earth.

"If my heart has followed after another man's wife,

Or if I have laid wait at her door,

Then also may my wife please another,

And may my children be humiliated.

For the rage of anger is uncontrollable

In defiling another man's wife.

For it is a fire burning on every side,

And whomever it comes upon, it destroys at the roots.

If I have despised the judgment of my servant or handmaid

When they judged me,

What then will I do when the Lord brings me to trial and visits me?

How shall I answer Him?

Did not He who made me in the womb make them?

So we were fashioned in the same womb.

"But the weak did not miss whatever they happened to need,

And I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.

If I ate my morsel by myself

And did not share it with the orphan

(But from my youth I nourished them as a father,

And from my mother's womb I
guided the widow);

If I have neglected the naked as he
was perishing

And did not clothe him;

If the weak did not bless me,

And if their shoulders were not
warmed with the fleece of my lambs;

If I raised my hand against the
orphan,

Trusting that my strength was far
superior to his,

Then let my shoulder fall from my
collarbone;

Let my arm be torn from its sock-
et.

For the fear of the Lord seized
me,

And I cannot endure His burden.

If I have made gold my strength

Or trusted the precious stone,

If I have rejoiced because my
wealth was great,

And if I, too, laid my hand on
countless treasures

(Or do I not see the shining sun
eclipsed and the moon waning?)

For this does not depend upon
them);

If my heart has been secretly de-
ceived,

And if I have laid my hand upon
my mouth and kissed it,

Then may this also be reckoned to
me

As the greatest lawlessness;

For I have lied against the Lord
most high.

"If I, too, was glad at the fall of
my enemies,

And my heart said, 'Good! Well
done!'

Then may my ear hear my curse,
And may I be a byword among my
people in my affliction.

If my handmaids have often said,
'Who may give us his meat to be
satisfied?'

(But I was very kind.

For the stranger did not spend the
night outside;

And my door was opened to eve-
ryone who came);

If I sinned involuntarily, then cov-
ered my sin,

(For I did not stand in awe of
great multitude,

So as not to confess before them);

And if I permitted a poor man to
go out of my door

With an empty bosom

(Who may listen to me?);

And if I had not feared the hand
of the Lord,

And as to the document I had
against someone,

I would place it as a crown on my
shoulders and read it,

And if I did not tear it up and
return it,

Having taken nothing from the
debtor;

"If at any time the land groaned
against me

And its furrows wept together,

If I have eaten its strength alone
without paying,

Or if I also grieved the soul of the
owner of the land

By casting him out,

Then may the nettle come to me
instead of wheat,

And bramble instead of barley.”

Thus Job ceased speaking.

Job’s three friends also ceased answering him, for he was righteous before them. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, of the country of Ausitis, became furious; and he was very angry with Job, because he declared

himself to be righteous before the Lord. He was also very angry with Job’s three friends, because they found no answer to Job, and yet affirmed he was an ungodly man. Now because they were years older than he, Elihu waited to speak to Job. So when Elihu saw there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 8:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You shall proclaim wisdom
That discernment may obey you;
For she is on the lofty summit
And stands in the midst of the
paths.
For she sits beside the gates of
princes
And sings at the entrances,
“You, O men, I exhort,
And I utter my voice to the sons
of men;
Understand astuteness, O simple
ones,
And put it in your heart, O unin-
structed ones.
Obey me, for I speak sacred
things,
And from my lips I will bring
forth things that are true.
For my mouth shall speak the
truth,

But false lips are an abomination
before me.

All the words of my mouth are
with righteousness;

There is nothing in them crooked
or twisted.

All things are evident to those
who understand

And true to those who find
knowledge.

Lay hold of instruction and not
silver,

And knowledge rather than tested
gold,

And choose perception rather
than pure gold.

For wisdom is better than pre-
cious stones,

And every costly thing is not wor-
thy of her.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 43:10-28

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“You are My witnesses, and I am a
witness,” says the Lord God, “and
My Servant whom I chose, that you
may know and believe, and under-
stand that I am He. Before Me there

was no other God, nor shall there be
after Me. I am God, and besides Me
there is no one who saves. I pro-
claimed, and I saved. I denounced
foreign gods so there were none

among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God. “Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?”

Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. I am the Lord God, your Holy One, who made known your King, O Israel.” 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.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 32:6-16

From the book of the Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

“I am young in years, and you are the elder;

Therefore I was silent

And dared not declare my knowledge to you.

I said, ‘It is not time that speaks,

Though in many years, men know wisdom.’

But there is a spirit in mortals,
And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches them.

The long-lived are not always wise,
Nor do the old men always know judgment.

“Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me,

I also will declare what I know.’
Pay close attention to my words,
For I will speak in your hearing,
while you examine my words,
And until I shall understand you.
So behold, not one of you answered
Job in argument;
Lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom
added to the Lord.’

But you permitted a man to speak
such words.

“They were dismayed and answered
no more;

They made their words obsolete.

I waited, for they did not speak.

Because they stood still, they did
not answer.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 8:12-21

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I, wisdom, dwell with counsel,
And I call upon knowledge and
understanding.

The fear of the Lord hates un-
righteousness,

And both rudeness and arrogance,
and the ways of wicked men;

And I hate the perverted ways of
evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

Discernment is mine, and strength
is mine;

By me, kings reign,

And princes write of righteous-
ness;

By me, noblemen become great,

And by me, monarchs have power
in the land.

I love those who love me,

And those who seek me shall find
me.

Riches and glory belong to me,

And abundant possessions, and
righteousness;

It is better to enjoy my fruits than
gold and precious stones,

And my fruits are better than
choice silver.

I walk in the ways of righteous-
ness,

And I am conversant with the
paths of judgment;

That I may distribute substance to
those who love me,

And may fill their treasuries with
good things.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 44:1-8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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. Who is just as I am? Then let him stand, let him call and prepare for Me that from which I made man forever, and let them declare to you the things that are coming before they come. Do not hide yourselves. Have you not paid attention from the beginning, and have I not declared it to you? You are My witnesses, if there is a God besides Me? Indeed there was none.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 32:17-33:33

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Elihu continued and said:
'Again I will speak, for I am full of words;

The spirit within my stomach is killing me.

Indeed, my stomach is like a wine-skin of sweet new wine,

Bound up and ready to burst,

Or like the blowpipe of a copper-smith, ready to bellow.

I will speak, that I may find relief in opening my lips.

I will not feel shame before any man,

Neither indeed will I feel shame before any mortal.

For I do not know how to flatter persons,

Or else the moths would eat me.

"Nevertheless, hear my words, Job,

And pay close attention to what I say.

For behold, I have opened my mouth

And my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart shall be found pure;

And the understanding of my lips will think pure thoughts.

The divine Spirit has made me,

And the breath of the Almighty is that which teaches me.

Give me an answer to these things if you can.

Endure and stand firm against me, and I against you.

You and I were formed out of the clay;

Thus, we have been formed out of
the same substance.

My fear will not distract you,
Neither shall my hand be heavy on
you.

“However you said in my hearing
(I heard the voice of your words),
For you say, ‘I am pure, for I have
not sinned.

I am blameless, for I have not
acted lawlessly.

Yet He has found a charge against
me;

He has counted me as His enemy.
He has put my feet in the stocks,
And He watches all my paths.’

“For how can you say,

‘I am righteous, yet He has not
listened to me’?

For He that is above mortals is
eternal.

But you say, ‘Why has He not
heard every word of my cause?’

For when the Lord speaks once,
Or in another time in a dream,
Or in a meditation of the night
(As when dreadful fear falls upon
men

While slumbering on their bed),
Then He unveils the hearts of men
And frightens them with such
fearful visions

So as to turn man from his
wrongdoing;

Thus He delivers his body from a
fall.

He keeps back his soul from death
And does not allow him to fall in
war.

“Again He also chastens him with
sickness on his bed,

And the multitude of his bones
grow numb.

He is not able to receive any food,
Though his soul may long for it,
Until his flesh wastes away
And he shows his bones bare.
His soul also draws near to death
And his life to Hades.

“If there are a thousand death-
bringing messengers,

None of them shall wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn
to the Lord,

And declares to man his fault, and
shows his folly,

He will support him, that he might
not fall into death;

And He will renew his body like
fresh plaster upon a wall,

And fill his bones with marrow.

He will make his flesh young like a
child’s

And restore him among men in
full manhood.

He shall pray to the Lord, and his
prayer shall be accepted.

He shall come to prayer with an
innocent face

And with an utterance of thanks-
giving,

For He will restore righteousness
to men.

Even then, a man shall blame
himself, saying,

‘I am to blame because of what I
did,

Yet He has not examined my guilt

To the extent of my unworthiness.'

Save my soul from going down to corruption,

So my life shall see the light.

"Behold all these things:

The Mighty One works three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death

That my life may praise Him in the light.

"Give ear, Job; listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will speak.

If you have anything to say, answer me;

Speak, for I desire you to be declared as righteous.

If not, listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

4 Kings 5:1-27 or 2 Kings 5:1-27*

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Naaman, commander of the army of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord gave victory to Syria. The man was mighty in strength and valor, but a leper. And the Syrians, lightly armed, had gone out on raids and brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet of God in Samaria! For he would expel his leprosy from him." And she went in and told her master, saying, "This is what the girl from the land of Israel said." Then the king of Syria said to Naaman, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand gold shekels, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, "Now be advised, when this letter comes to

you, that I am sending Naaman my servant to you, so that you may heal him of his leprosy."

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, able to kill and make alive, to heal this man of his leprosy that this man sends to me? You perceive and see that this man is using this as a pretext for a quarrel with me." When Elisha the man of God heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent notice to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel."

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious and went away,

saying, "Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Then his servants approached and said to him, "If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, 'Bathe and be clean.' " So Naaman went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha's instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed. Then he, with all his aides, returned to Elisha and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I have come to know that in all the earth there is no God except the God of Israel. Now accept the gift of your servant." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." Again he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, "If not, then, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of red earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful with your servant: when my master goes there, to the house of Rimmon, to worship, he will rely on

my hand, and I will worship in the house of Rimmon. In the worship in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter." Then Elisha said to Naaman, "Go in peace."

He departed from him but a short distance. Then Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, said, "Behold, my master spared this Syrian Naaman, yet from his hand he received nothing of what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something of his." So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he turned from the chariot to meet him. And Gehazi said, "Peace. My master sent me saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets came to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.' " Then Naaman said, "Take two talents of silver." So Gehazi took two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants. They left and carried them on ahead of him. As they entered into the darkness, he took them from their hands and stored them in the house. He then dismissed the men. Now he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "From where have you come, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

Then Elisha said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet

you? And now you received the silver and the garments, and it shall happen that you shall receive from him gardens and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and menservants and handmaidens. And the leprosy of Naaman shall also cling to

you and your seed forever.” Thus he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

** Found in Southern United States. Lacking in Kitchener and Ottawa.*

Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 10:1-11:10

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail,

and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little

ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death.” So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea.

There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you.” But Moses said, “No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Thus our cattle shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.”

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, “Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die.” So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Now the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on

Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here. Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing.” So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne even to the firstborn of the female servant behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as was not like it

before, nor shall be like it again. But against not even one of the descendants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.’ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go from here, and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 44:21-28

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you to be My servant; therefore, you, O Israel, do not forget Me. For behold, I blotted out your lawlessness like a cloud and your sins like darkness. Return to Me, and I will redeem you. Be glad, O heavens, for the Lord had mercy on Israel. Sound the trumpet, you foundations of the earth; shout with gladness, you mountains and hills and every tree on

them. For God redeemed Jacob, and Israel will be glorified.”

Thus says the Lord, who redeems you and forms you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who accomplishes all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and established the earth. Who else will scatter abroad the sign of ventriloquists and the divinations from their heart, turning their shrewd men backward and making their counsel foolishness? Who else establishes the word of His servant,

proving the counsel of His messengers to be true? Who else says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' and to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built, and the desert places shall spring forth'? Who else says to the deep, 'You shall be dried up, and I

will dry up your rivers'? Who else tells Cyrus to be wise, and do all My will, and says to Jerusalem, 'You will be built, and I shall lay the foundation of My holy house'?"

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 8:23-35

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works;

He established me in the beginning before time,

Before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses,

Before the going forth of the fountains of waters,

Before the mountains were created;

And He begot me before all hills.

The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places

And the inhabited heights under heaven.

When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him,

And when He set apart His throne upon the winds.

When He made strong the things above the clouds,

And made sure the fountains under heaven,

And made strong the foundations of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

I was He in whom He rejoiced;

Daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.

When He completed the world, He rejoiced,

And He rejoiced in the sons of men.

Now therefore, my son, hear me:

Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me

And the man who shall guard my ways;

Who watches daily at my doors,

Who keeps watch at the doors of my entryways;

For my issues are the issues of life,

And grace is prepared from the Lord.

But those who sin against me act ungodly toward their own souls,

And those who hate me love death."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 34:1-37

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu continued and said:

"Hear me, O wise men who are present,

And pay close attention to what is good.

For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for ourselves;

Let us know among ourselves what is good.

For Job has said, 'I am righteous,

And the Lord has taken away my judgment.'

But he spoke untruth in my judgment when he said,

'My wound is severe, though I am without wrongdoing.'

What man is like Job,

Who drinks scorn like water?

For he says, 'I have not sinned, nor committed ungodliness,

Nor had anything in common with the workers of lawlessness,

So as to walk with ungodly men.'

For you should not say, 'There shall be no visitation of a man,'

Whereas there is a visitation on him from the Lord.

"Therefore listen to me, you wise in heart:

May it be far from me to act in an ungodly way before the Lord

And to pervert righteousness before the Almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

And in a man's path He will find him.

Do you think the Lord will do wrong,

Or will the Almighty who made the earth pervert judgment?

Who is He who created everything under heaven

And all things therein?

If He should wish to hold and restrain His breath within Himself,

All flesh would die together,

And every mortal would return to the ground

From which he was formed.

Take heed to this, lest He warn you;

Pay close attention to the voice of His words.

Behold then the one who hates lawless things

And destroys the evil ones.

He is forever righteous.

He is ungodly who says to a king,

'You act contrary to the law,'

And to rulers, 'O, most ungodly one.'

Such a man is not ashamed

Before the face of an honorable man,

Nor does he know how to give honor to the great,

So as to show proper respect.

But it will prove to be in vain for them to cry out

And beg the favor of a man;

For they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

"For He is the observer of the works of man,

And nothing of what they do escapes Him.

There is no place for the workers of lawlessness to hide themselves.

He need not further consider a man,

For the Lord gazes upon all men.
 He comprehends unsearchable things,
 Glorious also and extraordinary things without number.
 He discloses their works;
 And He will overthrow them in the night,
 And they will be brought low.
 He extinguishes the ungodly,
 For they are visible before Him,
 Because they turned aside from the law of God
 And would not regard His ordinances,
 So as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;
 For He will hear the cry of the poor.
 He will provide quietness, and who shall condemn Him?
 And He will hide His face, and who shall see Him?
 Whether it be done against a nation or a man jointly,
 To cause a hypocrite to be king,
 Because of the discontent of the people.
 "For there is one that says to the Mighty One,

'I have received blessings; I will not take in pledge;
 I will see apart from myself;
 Show me if I have done unrighteousness,
 And I will do so no more.'
 Will He not take vengeance for it from you,
 Because you failed to listen to your conscience?
 For you will choose, and not I;
 Therefore, speak what you know.
 "For this reason wise men in heart shall say this,
 And a wise man listens to my word.
 But Job has spoken without understanding,
 And his words are without knowledge.
 But learn, Job, and no longer answer like that of foolish men,
 That we add not to our sins;
 For lawlessness will be counted against us
 If we speak many words against the Lord."
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 10:1-31

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise leader will educate his people,
 And the rule of an intelligent man will be well ordered.
 As goes the leader of a people, so also are his officials,

And all the inhabitants of a city will reflect its ruler.
 An undisciplined king will ruin his people,
 But a city will be made habitable through the wisdom of its rulers.

The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord,

And He will raise up the right man for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the hand of the Lord,

And He confers His honor upon the person of the scribe.

Do not cherish anger against your neighbor for any injury,

And do nothing by acts of insolence.

Arrogance is hateful before God and man,

And wrongdoing is offensive to both.

Dominion is transferred from nation to nation

Because of wrongdoing, insolence, and wealth.

How can he who is earth and ashes be arrogant?

Because even while living, his insides are decaying.

A physician scoffs at a long illness,

And a king today will also die tomorrow.

When a man dies, he will inherit

Reptiles, wild animals, and worms.

The beginning of a man's arrogance is to depart from the Lord,

For his heart withdraws from the One who created him.

For the beginning of arrogance is sin,

And he who takes hold of it will pour out an abomination.

Therefore the Lord will bring them extraordinary distress

And completely destroy them.

The Lord pulls down the thrones of rulers

And seats the gentle in their place.

The Lord plucks out the roots of nations

And plants the humble in their place.

The Lord overthrows the lands of the nations

And destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,

And puts an end to their memory on the earth.

Arrogance was not created by mankind,

Nor fierce anger by the offspring of women.

What kind of seed is honored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honored?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

Those who transgress the commandments.

Among brothers their leader is honored,

And those who fear the Lord are honored in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority,

But roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

The rich and the honored and the poor alike—

Their boasting is the fear of the Lord.

It is not right to dishonor an intelligent poor man,

Nor is it proper to honor a sinful man.

The nobleman, the judge, and the ruler will be honored,

But none of them is greater than the one who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a wise servant,

And an understanding man will not grumble.

Do not put your wisdom on display when you do your work,

Nor magnify yourself in the time of your trouble.

Better is he who works and has plenty

Than he who magnifies himself but has no bread.

My son, honor your soul with gentleness

And give it honor according to its worth.

Who will declare righteous the man who sins against his soul,

And who will honor the man who dishonors his life?

A poor man is honored for his knowledge,

While a rich man is honored for his wealth.

If a man is honored in poverty,

How much more in wealth,

And if a man is dishonored in wealth,

How much more in poverty?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

4 Kings 4:8-37 or 2 Kings 4:8-37

From the Fourth book of Kings.

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, "Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a

table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place." Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, "Say now to her, 'Hear me.

You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?" But she answered, "I dwell among my own people."

So Elisha said, "What then is to be done for her?" And his servant, Gehazi, replied, "She certainly has no son, and her husband is old." Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said, "About this time next year, you shall embrace a son." So she said, "No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!" Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew.

And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, "My head, my head!" His father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, "Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back." So he said, "Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she replied, "It is well."

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." She rode and came to the

man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "Peace." Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me." So she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?"

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child is not awakened."

Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his

eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and

said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, "Take your son." So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 45:1-10

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. "I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven

above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

"As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, 'What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?' As though one should say to his father, 'What will you beget?' Or to his mother, 'What will you bring forth?'

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. "I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and

Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds

sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,
And she supported it with seven pillars.
She offered her sacrifices;
She mixed her wine in a bowl
And prepared her table.
She sent her servants,
Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,
“He who is without discernment,
Let him turn aside to me”;
And to those in need of discernment, she says,
“Come, eat my bread
And drink the wine I mixed for you;
Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;
Seek discernment so you may live,
And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 35:1-16

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu continued, saying:

“What is this you consider as judgment?

Who are you to say, ‘I am righteous before the Lord’?

Or will you say, ‘What did I do, if I have sinned?’

“I will answer you and your three friends.

Look up to heaven and see,

And observe the cloud as higher than you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

If you have acted very lawlessly, what can you do?

Since therefore you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what did He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness may affect a man such as you,

Or your righteousness a son of man.

“Those who are slandered by a multitude will cry out;

They will cry out for help because of the strength of the many.

But no one says, ‘Where is the God who made me,

Who appoints the night watches,

Who distinguishes me from the four-footed animals of the earth

And from the birds of heaven?’

There they will cry out, but no one answers,

Because of the insolence of evil men.

For the Lord does not desire to look on wrongdoing,

For He, the Almighty, is the observer

Of those who perform lawless deeds,

But He will save me.

Decide before Him if you can praise Him as it is now possible.

But now, He is not visiting His wrath,

Nor even taking notice of very much transgression;

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain;

In ignorance he burdens us with words.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 11:1-10

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The wisdom of a humble man will exalt his head,

And he will take his seat among the great.

Do not praise a man for his good looks,

And do not detest one because of his appearance.

The bee is small among winged creatures,

But her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast about your fine clothes,

Nor magnify yourself in the day you are honored;

Because the works of the Lord are wondrous,

And His works are hidden from men.

Many tyrants have sat on the ground,

But one never thought of has worn a crown.

Many rulers have suffered exceeding disgrace,

And honored men have been betrayed into the hands of others.

Do not find fault before you examine a situation.

First, understand it, and then make your judgment.

Do not answer before you have listened,

And do not interrupt someone while he is talking.

Do not argue about a matter that does not concern you,

And do not sit together with sinners when they judge a case.

My son, do not let your business involve too many things.

If you multiply them, you will not remain unpunished,

And if you pursue them, you will not overtake them;

And you will not escape by running away.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 22:1-18

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the

donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” So he said, “Here I

am.” He then replied, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, “In the mountain the Lord was seen.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 45:11-17

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: “Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven and commanded all the stars. I raised him up to be a

king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts,” says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass

over to you. They shall be your servants and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say, "There is no God besides You. For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we

knew it not.' All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 9:12-21

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths,

"He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me;

And he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying,

'Grasp with pleasure the secret bread

And the sweet water of theft.' "

But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her,

And he happens upon a snare of Hades.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 36:1-32*

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Elihu also proceeded and said:

"Wait for me yet a little while, that I may teach you,

For there is yet more for me to say.

I will gather my knowledge from afar

And truly speak of righteousness in my works.

You were not hearing unjust words without good reason.

“But know that the Lord who is mighty in strength of heart

Does not cast off an innocent man.

He will not give life to the ungodly,

But He will give judgment to the poor.

He will not turn away from the righteous,

But will seat them on the throne with kings;

For He will lift them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But if they are bound in fetters,

They shall be held in the cords of poverty.

He will tell them their works and their transgressions,

For such will act with violence.

He also will hear the righteous,

And He said they will turn from wrongdoing.

If they give ear and serve Him,

They shall spend their days in good things

And their years in dignity.

But He does not save the ungodly,

Because they are not willing to know the Lord,

And because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

“For the hypocrites in heart will marshal anger against themselves,

And they will not cry for help, because He has bound them.

Therefore, may their soul die in youth,

And their life be wounded by messengers of death,

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

And He will make manifest the judgment of the gentle.

“Besides, He deceived you by the mouth of the enemy.

There is an abyss and a pouring over beneath it,

And your table descended full of fatness.

Judgment shall not fail from the righteous,

But there shall be anger against the ungodly

Because of the ungodliness of the gifts they received for wrongdoings.

Let not your heart willingly turn you aside

From the petition of the weak who are in distress.

Do not lure away all the mighty men at night

So the people should go up instead of them.

“But guard yourself, lest you do what is wrong,

For you chose this because of poverty.

Behold, the Mighty One shall prevail by His strength.

Who is so powerful as He?

Who is he who examines His works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done unjustly’?

“Remember, His works are great,

Because of which men began to exist.

Everyone has seen for himself
 How many mortals are wounded.
 "Behold, the Mighty One is great,
 And we do not know Him.
 The number of His years is also
 endless.
 For He numbers the drops of rain,
 And they shall be poured out in
 rain to form a cloud.
 The ancient clouds shall drop
 down
 And overshadow innumerable
 mortals.
 He has fixed a time for cattle,
 And they know the appointed
 time for their rest.
 Yet your mind is not astonished
 by these things,
 Nor does your heart leap out from
 your body.

For one should perceive the out-
 spreadings of a cloud
 And the measure of His tabernac-
 le.
 Behold, He stretches His bow
 against him
 And covers the bottom of the sea.
 For by these He will judge the
 peoples.
 He will give food to him who has
 strength.
 He has hidden light in His hands
 And given orders to the cloud by
 which it is diverted.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Kitchener and Ottawa, lacking in
 Southern United States.*

Job 37:1-24*

Again from the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"At this also my heart was trou-
 bled and flows from its place.
 Listen attentively to the thunder of
 the Lord's wrath
 And the discourse coming from
 His mouth.
 His dominion is under the whole
 heaven
 And His light to the ends of the
 earth.
 Behind Him a voice will cry aloud.
 He will thunder with His voice of
 outrage,
 Yet He will not change them when
 His voice is heard.
 The Mighty One will thunder
 marvelously with His voice,

For He does great things we can-
 not comprehend.
 For He commands the snow, 'Fall
 upon the earth,'
 And likewise there is the winter,
 The rain and the winter storms of
 His might.
 He seals up the hand of every man
 That everyone may know his
 weakness.
 The wild animals go into their
 shelters
 And are at rest in their lairs.
 From the secret chambers comes
 the whirlwind,
 And cold from the mountaintop.

By the breath of the Mighty One,
He will send frost,

And He freezes the waters as He
wishes.

And when the cloud obscures
what He chooses,

His light will disperse the cloud.

He will swirl the encircling clouds
by His governance

To perform all their works,

Moving them to do whatever He
commands.

This has been appointed by Him
on the earth,

Whether for correction or for His
earth,

Or if He shall find him an object
for mercy.

“Pay close attention to this, O Job.

Stand still and consider the power
of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed
His works,

Having made light out of dark-
ness.

He knows the division of the
clouds

And the violent falls of evil men.

But your robe is warm,

And there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish with Him the
foundations

For the ancient heavens?

They are strong like a molten mir-
ror.

“What is this to you? Teach me
what we will say to Him,

And let us cease speaking many
words.

Have I a book or scribe by me

That I may stand and put man to
silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the ancient
heavens,

As that which is from Him in the
clouds.

From the north come the clouds,
shining like gold;

In these great things are the glory
and honor of the Almighty.

We do not find another like Him
in His strength.

Do you not think He who judges
righteously listens?

Therefore men shall fear Him,

And the wise in heart shall fear
Him.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Ottawa and Kitchener, lacking in
Southern United States.*

Tobit 1:1-3:6

From the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the book of the words of
Tobit, the son of Tobiel, the son of
Hananiel, the son of Aduel, the son
of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, from
the tribe of Naphtali. He was led

captive out of Thisbe in the days of
Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians.
Thisbe is south of Kedesh Naphtali,
in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I did much almsgiving to my brethren and to the people who journeyed with me as exiles to Nineveh, in the country of the Assyrians. In my young days, when I was in my own country, the land of Israel, the entire tribe of my father Naphtali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to sacrifice for all the tribes. This temple, the habitation of the Most High God, was sanctified and built for all generations forever.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt sacrificed the heifer to Baal. The house of Naphtali, the tribe of my father, also revolted. But I alone traveled frequently to Jerusalem for the feast days, as it is written for all of Israel in an everlasting ordinance. I would carry the firstfruits and the tithes of my harvest and the first-shearing. These I would give to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I would offer the tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi who served at Jerusalem. I would also sell off the second tenth and go and spend it at Jerusalem each year. The third tenth I would give to whom it was fitting, as Deborah the mother of my father commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. When I became a man, I took Anna for a wife from my own kindred. With her I became the father of Tobias.

When I was taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those from my race ate from the bread of the Gentiles. But I protected myself by not eating it. For I remembered God with all my soul. So the Most High gave me grace and comeliness before Shalmaneser, and I became his purchasing agent. I would go into Media. And one time in Rages of Media, I entrusted to Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, ten talents of silver.

When Shalmaneser died and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the roads were unstable and I could no longer travel to Media. In the days of Shalmaneser, I did much almsgiving to my brothers. I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked. If I saw anyone of my people dead, cast outside the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him. If King Sennacherib put someone to death when he came trying to escape from Judea, I buried them secretly. For in his anger, he put many to death, and the bodies were sought by the king; but they were not found. But one of the men of Nineveh went and made known to the king concerning my burying them. So I hid, and when I knew I was being sought to be put to death I was frightened and ran away. All of my possessions were seized and I had nothing left, except Anna my wife and Tobias my son.

But not even fifty days passed before two of King Sennacherib's sons had killed him and escaped into

the mountains of Ararat. Thus Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Anael, to be over all the accounts of his kingdom and over the entire government. Ahikar then entreated on my behalf, so I came to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was the wine-pourer, the keeper of the signet ring, the administrator and the accountant. Esarhaddon appointed him second to himself, and he was my nephew.

When I arrived at my house, my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the Feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A good dinner was prepared for me, so I sat down at the table to eat. When I saw the abundance of meat, I said to my son, "Go and bring whomever you may find of our needy brethren who are mindful of the Lord. Behold, I will wait for you." But he came back and said, "O father, one of our people was strangled and thrown into the marketplace." So before I even tasted anything, I jumped up and carried the corpse into a room until sunset. Then I returned, bathed myself, and ate my bread in sorrow. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said,

"Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

And all your gladness into a song of grief."

So I wept. When the sun went down, I departed, and after digging a grave, I buried him. My neighbors laughed at me and said, "He is no

longer afraid to be put to death for doing such a thing. He ran away before, and now, behold, he is burying the dead again."

On the same night that I buried him, I returned home. But since I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the courtyard with my face uncovered.

However, I did not see the sparrows on the wall, for while my eyes were open the sparrows discharged their droppings into my eyes, and they became white films in my eyes. I went to physicians, but they could not help me. Then Ahikar supported me until he left for Elymais.

Then my wife Anna worked for hire at what women do. She would send her work to the owners and they would pay her. On one occasion they paid her wages and also gave her a small goat. But when she returned to me, it began to bleat. So I said to her, "Where did this goat come from? Is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is unlawful to eat what is stolen." But she replied, "It was given to me as a gift. It was in addition to my wages." But I did not believe her, telling her to return it to its owners. I blushed in embarrassment for her sake. So she answered and said to me, "Are your acts of charity and righteous deeds lawful? Behold, you are a know-it-all!"

Then I wept in my sorrow, and with pain I prayed, saying:

"O Lord, You are righteous. So too are all Your works. All Your ways are mercy and truth. Your judgments

are true and just forever. Remember me and look upon me with favor. Do not punish me for my sins and my ignorance, nor those sins of my fathers which they committed against You. Because they disobeyed Your commands, so You gave us as spoil, captivity and death. You made us a byword of disgrace among all the nations in which we were scattered. Now Your judgments concerning my sins are many and they are true, because I did them, and so did my fathers. For we did not keep Your

commandments. Indeed we did not walk in truth before You. Now do with me as is best before You. Command that my spirit be taken up, so I may be released and become soil, since it is better for me to die than to live. For I have heard false insults, and there is much sorrow within me. Command that I be freed from distress to now enter into the eternal place. Do not turn Your face away from me.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tobit 3:7-3:16

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On the same day, in Ecbatana of Media, Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, happened to be insulted by her father’s maids. She was married to seven husbands, but before they could be with her as a wife, Asmodeus, the evil demon, killed them. So they said to her, “Do you not recollect that you strangled these husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Therefore, why punish us? If they are dead, go with them. May we never see a son or daughter of yours.”

When she heard this, she was so distressed that she considered hanging herself. But she said, “I am the only one of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades.” So she prayed by her window and said:

“Blessed are You, O Lord my God. Blessed is Your holy and precious name unto the ages. May all Your works bless You forever. Now, O Lord, I offer myself completely to You. Command that I be released from the land, that I may not hear such disgrace any more. O Lord, You know that I am innocent of any sin with a man. I have not defiled my name nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am my father’s only offspring. He has no other child who will be his heir. Neither does he have a brother close at hand, nor an adopted son that I might keep myself as a wife to him. Seven of my husbands have already perished. What should I live for? But if it does not seem good to You to kill me, command that I be looked upon with favor, and that mercy be shown

to me, so I may no longer hear disgrace.”

The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the great glory of Raphael, and he was sent to heal the two of them: to remove the white films from Tobit; to give Sarah of Raguel to Tobias the son of Tobit as

a wife; and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for it fell upon Tobias to inherit her. At that same time Tobit returned and entered his house, and Sarah of Raguel came down from her upstairs room.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tobit 4:1-6:9

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On that day Tobit remembered the silver he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said to himself, “I requested death for myself. Why do I not call my son Tobias to make this known to him before I die?”

So he summoned him and said, “My son, if I die, bury me, but do not disregard your mother. Honor her all the days of your life. Do what is pleasing to her, but do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she experienced many dangers for you while you were in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in the same grave. My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not desire to sin or to disobey His commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing. For if you walk in the truth, you will be successful in your works. Do almsgiving from your possessions to all who do righteousness. When you do almsgiving, do not let your eye be envious. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, so the face of God will not

be turned away from you. Do almsgiving based on the quantity of your possessions. If you possess only a few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. You are storing up a good treasure for yourself in the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers us from death and prevents us from entering into the darkness. Indeed, almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

“My son, guard yourself from all fornication, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers. Do not take a foreign woman who is not from the tribe of your father, for we are sons of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers from of old. Remember, my son, that all these took wives from among their brothers and were blessed in their children. Their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brothers and do not be arrogant in your heart against your brothers, the sons and daughters of your people. Take a wife for yourself from them, for arrogance brings

destruction and great disorder, and in such worthlessness there is loss and great defect. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

“Do not keep overnight the wages of any man who works for you, but pay him immediately. If you serve God, He will pay you. Give heed to yourself, my son, in all your works, and be disciplined in all your conduct. What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine unto a state of drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness become your traveling companion. From your bread, give to him who is hungry, and from your clothing, give to the naked. If you have more than you need, do almsgiving, and do not let your eye envy the almsgiving when you do it. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but do not give it to sinners.

“Seek counsel from every sensible man, and do not treat any useful advice with contempt. At every opportunity bless the Lord God, but more than this ask that your ways may become straight, and that all your paths and purposes may prosper. For not every nation has understanding. But the Lord Himself gives all that is good, and as He desires He humbles whomever He will. Now my son, let none of my commandments be removed from your heart.

“Now let me point out to you the ten talents of silver I entrusted to Gabael the son of Gabrias, in Rages of Media. Do not fear, my son, that

we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God. Stay away from every sin, and do what is pleasing before Him.”

Tobias answered him and said, “O father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how will I be able to obtain the silver, for I do not know him?” Then he gave him the record of the debt and said to him, “Find for yourself a man who will travel with you, and I will pay him his wages as long as I remain alive. Now go and obtain the silver.”

Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel. But he did not know it. So Tobias said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages of Media? Are you acquainted with those places?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you. I am acquainted with the roadways and I have lodged with our brother Gabael.” Tobias said to him, “Wait for me and I will tell my father.” He said to him, “Do so, but do not delay.”

So he went to his father and said, “Behold, I have found someone who will go with me.” But his father said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is trustworthy enough to go with you.” So he invited him, and Raphael came in. They greeted one another cordially.

Tobit then said to him, “Brother, to what tribe and kindred do you belong?” Raphael responded, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a

hired man to go with your son?" Tobit replied, "Brother, I wish to know your people and your name." Then he said, "I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the Great, one of your relatives." So Tobit said to him, "You are most welcome, my brother. Do be not angry with me for seeking to learn of your tribe and your family. As it turns out, you are a brother of mine from a good and upright family. For I knew Ananias and Jonathan, the sons of Shemiah the Great, since we would journey in common to Jerusalem to worship and to offer the firstborn and the tenth of our harvest. They were not led astray in the deception of our brothers. My brother, you are from a good root.

"But tell me, what shall I give you as wages? A drachma a day and expenses for you and my son? I will even add more to your pay, if you both return in good health." Thus they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobias, "Prepare for the journey, and may it be prosperous." So his son prepared the things for the journey. Then his father said to him, "Go with this man, and may the God who dwells in heaven prosper your journey. May His angel journey with you." They both departed, and the young man's dog went with them.

But Anna his mother wept and said to Tobit, "Why have you sent our son away, or is he not the staff of our hands when he goes in and out before us? Do not attain silver upon silver, but may it be dirt compared to

our son. For as he was given to us to live by the Lord, this is sufficient for our existence." Tobit said to her, "My sister, do not be concerned. He shall return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey shall be prosperous. He will return in good health." So she ceased weeping.

They went on the journey and came to the Tigris River. So they spent the evening there. The young man went down to wash himself, and a fish jumped up from the river and was determined to swallow the young man. The angel said to him, "Take hold of the fish." So the young man grabbed the fish and put it on the bank. Then the angel said to him, "Cut open the fish. Take the heart, the liver, and the gall and put them in a safe place." The young man did as the angel commanded him. Then they cooked the fish and ate it.

After this, they traveled together until they came near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, "Brother Azarias, what is the purpose of the liver, the heart, and the gall of the fish?" He replied, "If a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, the heart and the liver must be used to make smoke before the man or woman, and that person will never be troubled again. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man who has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tobit 6:10-9:6

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

As they came near Rages, the angel said to the young man, "Brother, we will spend the night with Raguel. He is your relative and with him is his only child, a daughter named Sarah. I will speak for her that she might be given to you as a wife, because her inheritance belongs to you; for you alone are from her people. The girl is beautiful and she is sensible.

"So now listen to me, for I will speak to her father. When we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding. For I know that Raguel cannot give her to any other man according to the rule of Moses, or he will be subject to death. Thus it is proper that you receive the inheritance rather than another man."

Then the young man said to the angel, "Brother Azarias, I have heard the girl was given seven husbands, and they all perished in the bridal chamber. Now I am the only son of my father, and I fear for myself lest, entering the bridal chamber, I may die even as those before me. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone except those who approach her. Now I fear for myself lest I die and bring the life of my father and mother down into their tomb with grief and sorrow upon me. They have no other son who will bury them."

But the angel said to him, "Do you not remember the words your

father commanded you, to take a wife for yourself from among your people? Now listen to me, brother, for she will be a wife to you. As for the demon, have no concern, for this night she will be given to you as a wife. If you enter the bridal chamber, you will take with you ashes of incense, and lay some of it on the heart and liver of the fish. Then you will make smoke, and the demon will smell it and flee and never return. When you approach her, both of you will rise up and cry out to the merciful God. He will save you and be merciful. Do not fear for yourself, for she has been prepared for you from of old. You will save her and she will go with you. I believe that you will have children by her."

As Tobias heard these words, he loved her and his soul was very much united to her.

Then they went to Ecbatana and came to the house of Raguel. Sarah went ahead to meet them, and after they greeted one another, she escorted them into the house. Raguel said to Edna his wife, "How the young man resembles my cousin Tobit!" Then Raguel asked them, "Where are you from, brothers?" They answered, "We are from the sons of Naphtali who are captives in Nineveh." Then he said to them, "Do you know Tobit our brother?" They responded, "We know him." Then he asked, "Is he in

good health?" They answered, "He is alive and in good health." Tobias then added, "He is my father."

Raguel jumped up and kissed him and wept. He blessed him and said to him, "You are the son of a good and noble man!" But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept. Edna his wife and Sarah his daughter also wept, and they received them eagerly. And they killed a ram from the sheep and set many dishes before them.

Then Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azarias, speak about what you said on the way, and let the matter be completed." So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, "Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting for you to marry my child. However, I must tell you the truth. I gave my daughter to seven men, and when they went in to her, they died during the night. But for now, be glad!" But Tobias said, "I will not eat anything until after you establish an agreement with me." So Raguel said, "Receive her according to the decree, for you are her relative and she is yours. The merciful God will prosper you in what is good."

So he called Sarah his daughter, and taking her by the hand, he gave her to be a wife for Tobias. Then he said, "Behold, receive her according to the decree of Moses, and bring her before your father." He then blessed them and summoned his wife Edna. She took a scroll and wrote out the

agreement. They sealed it, and then they began to eat.

After this, Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, "Sister, prepare the other room and lead her into it." She did as he said and led her there. Then Sarah wept, but Edna understood the tears of her daughter and said to her, "Be courageous, my child. May the Lord of heaven and earth give you grace instead of this sorrow of yours. Be courageous, my daughter."

When they finished dining, they led Tobias to her. As he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon the embers of the incense and made smoke. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled to the upper parts of Egypt, and there the angel bound him. While both were enclosed in the room, Tobias rose up from the bed and said, "Arise, sister, and let us pray that the Lord will have mercy upon us." So Tobias began to pray, saying:

"Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and blessed is Your holy and glorious name unto the ages. The heavens and all Your creatures bless You. You made Adam and gave him Eve as a helper, his wife as a support. From them the seed of mankind came to be. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Us make a helper for him like himself.' O Lord, I now take this my sister as my wife, not on account of fornication, but in truth. Command that she and I may

have mercy, and in this grow old together.”

And with him she said, “Amen.” Then both fell asleep for the night.

But Raguel rose up and went outside and dug a grave, saying, “He, too, may have died.” Raguel then went back into his house and said to his wife Edna, “Send one of the maids and let her see if indeed Tobias is alive. If he is not, let us bury him that no one may know.” So the maid went to the door, and when she opened it she found both of them sleeping. She came out and told the two of them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying:

“Blessed are You, the God, with every pure and holy blessing. Your holy ones and all Your creatures bless You. All Your angels and Your chosen ones bless You unto all the ages. Blessed are You, for You have made me glad, and it did not turn out for me as I suspected. Rather, You did with us according to Your abundant mercy. Blessed are You, for You had mercy on our two only children. O Lord, show them mercy, and complete their life in health and with gladness and mercy.”

Then he ordered his household servants to fill in the grave.

After this he provided a wedding feast for them lasting fourteen days. Before the time of the wedding feast was over, Raguel swore an oath and said to Tobias, “You are not to leave from here unless the two of you stay the fourteen days of the wedding feast. At that time take half of my belongings and go in good health to your father. The remainder will be yours when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant and two camels with you and journey to Rages of Media. Find Gabael and bring the silver back to me and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn an oath for me not to go away. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay much longer he will be very distressed.” Then Raphael went and spent the night with Gabael, and gave him the handwritten receipt. So Gabael brought the small sealed bags and gave them to him. They both rose early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. Then Tobias blessed his wife.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tobit 10:1-11:19

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit his father was counting each day. But when the days needed to complete the journey ended and they had not returned, he asked, “Has he

perhaps been dishonored? Or has Gabael died and no one gave him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife told him, “The young

man has perished. That is why he is delayed.” Then she began to weep for him and said, “Nothing matters to me, my child, the light of my eyes, for I permitted you to go.” So Tobit said to her, “Be silent and have no more thoughts about it. He is in good health.”

She replied to him, “You be quiet. Do not deceive me. My child has perished.” Then throughout the day she went outside to the road by which he departed, and during the day she did not eat bread. At night she did not cease lamenting for her son Tobias until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were over, the days Raguel swore him to celebrate there.

Then Tobias said to Raguel, “Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope they will see me.” But his father-in-law said to him, “Stay with me, and I will send messengers to your father. They will make clear to him how you are doing.” But Tobias said, “No indeed. On the contrary, send me back to my father.”

Then Raguel arose and gave Sarah his wife to him, and half of his belongings in servants, cattle, and silver. Then he blessed them and sent them on their way, saying, “May the God of heaven prosper you, my children, before the day I die.” To his daughter he said, “Honor your husband’s mother and father, for they are now your parents. Let me hear a good report of you,” and he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, “My

beloved brother, may the Lord of heaven bring you back and grant me to see your children from my daughter Sarah, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Behold, I am entrusting my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her.” With this, Tobias went on his way blessing God that He had prospered his journey. Then he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He traveled until they approached Nineveh. Here Raphael said to Tobias, “My brother, are you not aware of how you left your father? Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house. Take the gall of the fish in your hand.” So they proceeded, and the dog followed behind them.

Meanwhile Anna sat gazing upon the road for her boy. She perceived that he was coming and said to the father, “Behold, your son is coming, and the man traveling with him!”

Raphael said, “I know that the eyes of your father will open. Rub the gall on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you.”

Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, “I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!” So they both wept. Then Tobit came out of the door. He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, “Father, take courage!” Then as his eyes stung, he

rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, "Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son." His son went in rejoicing and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit rejoiced and blessed God as he went to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh. But those who saw him as he walked

along were amazed that he could see. Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. Then as Tobit drew near to meet Sarah, his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, "May you be in good health, my daughter! Blessed is God who brought you to us, and blessed are your father and your mother."

So there was rejoicing among all his brethren in Nineveh. Even Ahikar and his nephew Nadab came, for the wedding feast for Tobias was kept with gladness for seven days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tobit 12:1-14:15

Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Tobit summoned his son Tobias and said to him, "My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you, and we must add to them." He replied to him, "My father, it is no harm for me to give him half of what I brought. For he brought me safely to you, healed my wife, and brought me the silver. Likewise he healed you." The elderly man replied, "He more than earned it." So he called the angel and said to him, "Take half of everything you brought."

Then Raphael secretly called the two of them, and said to them, "Bless God and give Him thanks. Ascribe greatness to Him and give thanks in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt His name. Make known the words of God's

works honorably and do not delay to give thanks to Him. It is noble to keep hidden the secret of a king, but glorious to unveil the works of God. Do good, and evil will not find you. Prayer is good with fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A few prayers with righteousness are better than many with wrongdoing. It is better to do almsgiving than to lay up gold. For almsgiving rescues one from death, and it will wash away every sin. Those who do almsgiving and are righteous will be full of life. But those who sin are enemies of their own life.

"I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I did say that it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought the

remembrance of your prayer before the Holy One. When you also buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. Then too, when you did not hesitate to stand up and leave your dinner so as to depart and care for the dead, your doing what is good did not escape me; but I was with you. Now God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who report the prayers of the saints and who enter before the glory of the Holy One.”

The two of them were troubled and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid, for peace shall be with you. But bless God forever. For I did not come of my own good will, but rather by the will of our God. Therefore bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you I did not eat or drink; but you were seeing a vision. Now give thanks to God, because I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that was accomplished.”

Then they stood up, but no longer saw him. They acknowledged the great and wondrous works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit with exceeding joy wrote a prayer, saying:

“Blessed is God
Who lives unto the ages,
And blessed is His kingdom,
For He scourges, and is merciful;
He brings down into Hades,

And leads up.

There is no one who will escape His hand.

Give thanks to Him before the nations,

O children of Israel,

For He scattered us among them.

Make known His greatness there;

Exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

For He is our Lord and God;

He is our Father unto all the ages.

He will scourge us for our wrongdoings,

But He will again have mercy

And gather us from all the nations,

Wherever you were dispersed among them.

If you return to Him with all your heart

And with all your soul,

To do the truth before Him,

Then He will turn to you

And not hide His presence from you.

Behold for yourself what He will do for you,

And give thanks to Him fully with the organ of speech.

Bless the Lord of righteousness,

And exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity, I give thanks to Him,

And make known His might and majesty to a nation of sinners.

Be converted, you sinners,

And do righteousness before Him.

Who knows if He will desire you

And have mercy on you?

I exalt my God,

And my soul exalts the King of
heaven

And will rejoice exceedingly in His
majesty.

Let all speak of His majesty

And give thanks to Him in Jerusa-
lem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,

He will scourge you for the deeds
of your sons,

But He will again show mercy to
the sons of the righteous.

Give thanks to the Lord with
goodness

And bless the King of the ages,

That His tabernacle may be re-
stored again to you in joy.

May He rejoice in you, the cap-
tives,

And may He love those who are
distressed among you

Unto all generations forever.

Many Gentiles will come from
afar

To the name of the Lord God,

Bearing gifts in their hands

And offerings to the King of
heaven.

Generations of generations will
offer You joyful worship.

Cursed are all who hate You;

Blessed are all who love You for-
ever.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad
for the children of the righteous,

For they will be gathered together

And will bless the Lord of the
righteous.

Blessed are those who love You.

They will rejoice in Your peace.

Blessed are the many who grieved
over all Your scourges,

For they will rejoice when they see
all Your glory

And will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great
King.

For Jerusalem will be built with
sapphire and emerald,

And her walls with precious
stones,

And her towers and battlements
with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be
paved

With beryl, onyx, and stones from
Ophir.

All her streets will proclaim, 'Alle-
luia!'

And will give praise, saying,

'Blessed is God, who exalted you
unto all the ages.'"

Then Tobit ceased giving thanks.

He was fifty-eight years old when
he lost his sight, and eight years later
he regained it. Tobit did almsgiving,
and continued to fear the Lord God,
and gave thanks to Him. He grew
very old, and called his son and his
son's sons, and said, "My son, take
your sons. Behold, I have grown old,
and I am departing from this life.
Depart to Media, my son, for I trust
all the words Jonah the prophet spoke
concerning Nineveh, that it will be
overthrown. But in Media there will
be more peace for a time. For our
brethren in the land will be dispersed
in the earth from the good land.
Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the

house of God therein will be burned up. It shall be desolate for a time.

“But God will again have mercy on them, and He will return them to the land. They will build the house, but not as it was before, until the times of the age are fulfilled. After this, they will return from the captivity and build Jerusalem honorably. The house of God within her will be built as a glorious building for every generation forever, as the prophets said concerning her. All the Gentiles shall return to truly fear the Lord God. They shall bury their idols in the earth, and all the Gentiles will bless the Lord. His people will offer thanks to God, and the Lord will exalt His people. All who love the Lord God in truth and righteousness will rejoice. They will show mercy to our brethren.

“So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since what the prophet Jonah said will doubtless come to pass. But keep the law and the ordinances. Be merciful and righteous, that it may be well with you. Bury me decently and your mother with me, but lodge no longer in Nineveh. My son, observe what Aman did to Ahikar who reared him,

how he led him from light into darkness, and how greatly he repaid him. Indeed Ahikar was saved, but as for that man, he was repaid with retribution and descended into the darkness. Manasseh did almsgiving and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap and perished. Now then, my children, observe what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers us.”

After he said these things, his soul departed as he lay on his bed. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and Tobias buried him gloriously. When Anna died, he buried her with his father. Then Tobias departed with his wife and his children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. He grew old honorably and buried the parents of his wife most respectfully. They inherited their estate and that of Tobit his father.

Tobias died at Ecbatana of Media when he was one hundred and twenty-seven years old. Before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, taken by Nebuchadnezzar and Ahasuerus. Thus before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 10:1-17

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A wise son makes his father glad,
But a son without discernment is a
grief to his mother.

Treasures do not benefit lawless
men,

But righteousness delivers from
death.

The Lord will not let the soul of
the righteous man starve,

But He overthrows the life of the
ungodly.

Poverty humbles a man,

But the hands of courageous men
enrich others.

A son who is instructed will be
wise,

And he will use a man without
discernment as a servant.

A son with understanding is kept
safe from the heat,

But a lawless son is blasted by the
wind at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is upon
the head of a righteous man,

But untimely grief will cover the
mouth of the ungodly.

The remembrance of the righteous
is with eulogies,

But the name of an ungodly man
is extinguished.

The wise man in heart will receive
the commandments,

But the man unguarded in speech
will be overthrown in his perverse-
ness.

He who walks in sincerity walks
confidently,

But he who perverts his ways will
be known.

He who winks his eyes deceitfully
gathers grief for men,

But he who reproves boldly is a
peacemaker.

A fountain of life is in the hand of
a righteous man,

But the mouth of an ungodly man
will hide destruction.

Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all who are not
lovers of strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from
his lips

Beats a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will hide perception,

But the mouth of a rash man ap-
proaches destruction.

The acquisition of riches is a fortified city,
But poverty is the destruction of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,
But the fruits of the ungodly produce sins.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 48:17-49:4

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: "I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me."

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob." If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall

flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. "There is no rejoicing," says the Lord, "for the ungodly."

"Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time," says the Lord. "He called My name from My mother's womb. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow and covered Me in His quiver. He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' Then I said, 'I have labored in vain and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.'"

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 38:1b-36

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying:
"Who is this who hides counsel from Me,
And holds words in his heart

And thinks to conceal them from Me?
Gird your waist like a man;
I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know.

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened,

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the stars were made

And all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?

“I shut up the sea with doors

When it burst forth and issued from the womb.

I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in mist.

I fixed My limit for it and set bars and doors.

I said, “This far you may come, but no further,

And here your waves must stop.”

“Did I order the morning light in your time,

And did the morning star see its appointed place,

To lay hold of the ends of the earth

And to shake the ungodly out of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground and form a living creature,

And set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

Have you removed light from the ungodly

And crushed the arm of the arrogant?

“Have you come upon the fountain of the sea

And walked in the tracks of the deep?

Do the gates of death open to you for fear,

And did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven?

Tell Me now, what is the extent of it?

“In what kind of land does the light dwell,

And what kind is the place of darkness?

If you would bring Me to their boundaries,

And also if you understand their paths,

Then I know you were born at that time,

And the number of your years is great.

“Have you come upon the storehouses of snow?

Have you seen the storehouses of hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of your enemies,

For the day of wars and battles?

From where does the frost proceed?

From where does the south wind scatter over the earth?

“Who prepared a course for the violent rain

Or a path for the thunders?

Who causes it to rain on a land where there is no man,

Or an uninhabited wilderness,
 where there is not a man in it,
 To satisfy the untrodden and uninhabited land
 And cause it to spring forth a crop
 of tender grass?
 Who is the rain's father,
 And who has begotten the drops
 of dew?
 From whose womb comes the ice,
 And who has given birth to the
 frost in heaven,
 Which descends like flowing water?
 Who made firm the face of the
 abyss?
 "Do you understand the band of
 the Pleiades,
 And have you opened the fence of
 Orion?

Will you open up Mazzaroth in its
 season,
 And the evening star with his rays?
 Will you guide them?
 Do you know the movements of
 heaven
 Or the events which take place
 together under heaven?
 "Will you call a cloud with your
 voice,
 And will it obey you with a violent
 shower of much rain?
 Can you send out lightnings, and
 they shall go?
 They shall say to you, 'What do
 you want?'
 Who has given to women wisdom
 in weaving
 Or knowledge of embroidery?
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 10:18-32

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Instruction guards righteous ways
 of life,
 But instruction incapable of criticism
 goes astray.
 Righteous lips cover hatred,
 But those who bring forth abuse
 are very lacking in discernment.
 You will not escape sin by a multitude
 of words,
 But you of discreet lips will be
 forbearing.

The tongue of a righteous man is
 silver tried in the fire,
 But the heart of an ungodly man
 shall fail.
 The lips of righteous men understand
 lofty things,
 But men without discernment die
 in want.
 The blessing of the Lord is upon
 the head of a righteous man;

It enriches him, and grief of heart
will not be added to it.

A man without discernment does
evil things with laughter,

But wisdom gives birth to discernment in a man.

The ungodly man is carried about
in destruction,

But the desire of the righteous
man is acceptable.

The ungodly man is destroyed by
the passing storm,

But the righteous man turns aside
and shall be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to
the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is a lawless woman to the men
who use her.

The fear of the Lord increases
days,

But the years of the ungodly will
be shortened.

Gladness continues for the righteous,

But the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is the
stronghold of a holy man,

But destruction is for those who
work evil.

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit
the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man
distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous
man utterly destroys.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 49:6b-10

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[Indeed He says, 'It is a great thing for You to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the dispersion of Israel.] Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.' ”

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: “Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord’s sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped

You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, ‘Go forth,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Reveal yourselves.’ They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

*[] *Lacking in Kitchener, found in Ottawa and Southern United States.*

Job 38:37-39:30

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who can number the clouds by wisdom,

And who bowed heaven down to earth?

For it is spread like a cloud of dust,

And I have joined it together as one hewn stone to another.

“Will you hunt prey for the lions

Or satisfy the lives of the serpents?

They fear in their dens,

And live in the forests, and lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?

For its young ones wander

And cry to the Lord in search of food.

“Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young,

And do you mark when the deer gives birth?

Do you number the full months of childbearing,

And have you relieved their pangs?

Have you reared their young without fear,

And have you sent away their pangs?

Their young ones will break forth;

They will be multiplied with offspring;

They depart and do not return.

Who set the wild donkey free?

Who loosed his bonds?

I made the wilderness his dwelling

And the salt lands his house.

He scorns the great multitude of the city;

He does not heed the blame of the tax collector.

He will survey the mountains as his pasture,

And he seeks out every green thing.

Will the wild ox be willing to serve you?

Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind his yoke with ropes,

Or will he plow furrows for you in the field?

Do you trust him because his strength is great?

Or will you commit your works to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your seed

And gather it to your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's?

For the falcon leaves her eggs on the ground

And warms them in the dust.

She has forgotten that a foot will scatter them,

Or that wild animals will trample them.

She hardens herself against her young ones

As though they were not hers.

She labors in vain without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom

And did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high,

She scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with a mane?

Have you put on him a suit of armor

And made his breast glorious with courage?

He paws exultingly in the valley

And goes forth with strength into the plain.

He mocks at battle when he sees it,

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against him,

And his rage would destroy the earth.

He will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

For at the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Good! Well done!'

He smells the battle from afar with its leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk remain steady by your understanding,

And spread its rigid wings looking toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command,

And the vulture remain sitting over its nest

On the crag of a hidden rock?

From there it spies out the prey;

Its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones roll themselves in blood;

And where the slain are, immediately they are found."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 5:1-15

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not set your heart on your possessions,

And do not say, "I am independent."

Do not follow yourself and your strength

So as to walk in the desires of your heart;

And do not say, "Who will be lord over me?"

For the Lord will surely punish you.

Do not say, "I sinned, so what happened to me?"

For the Lord is patient.

Do not be so confident of atonement

That you add sin to sin;

And do not say, "His compassion is great;

He will atone for the multitude of my sins,"

For both mercy and wrath come from Him;

And His anger rests on sinners.
 Do not delay to turn to the Lord,
 And do not put it off from day to day;
 For suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come forth,
 And in the day of vengeance, you will perish.
 Do not set your heart on dishonest wealth,
 For it will profit you nothing in the day of distress.
 Do not winnow with every wind
 And do not follow every road;
 For a double-tongued sinner is of such a kind.
 Be established in your understanding
 And let your word be consistent.
 Be quick to listen

And give your answer with patience.
 If you have understanding, answer your neighbor,
 But if not, let your hand be over your mouth.
 There is glory and dishonor in speech,
 And a man's tongue may cause him to fall.
 Do not be called a slanderer,
 And do not lie in ambush with your tongue;
 For shame awaits a thief,
 And a grievous condemnation will come upon
 A double-tongued man.
 In a great or in a small matter, do not go wrong.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 10:32-11:11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,
 But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.
 The lips of righteous men distill grace,
 But the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.
 Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is acceptable to Him.
 Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor,
 But the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.
 When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,
 But the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy.

Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths,

But ungodliness embraces wrongdoing.

The righteousness of upright men delivers them,

But lawless men are taken to their destruction.

When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish,

But the boast of the ungodly perishes.

A righteous man escapes from a snare,

But the ungodly man is handed over in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly,

But the perception of the righteous is prosperous.

A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous,

But it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.

A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt,

But a man of discernment keeps quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 58:1-11a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’ Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do

you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast,” says the Lord; “rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall

break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, 'Behold, I am here.' If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul,

and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. Your bones shall be enriched, and you shall be like a well-watered garden and like a spring of water that does not fail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 40:1-41:26

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover the Lord God answered Job and said:

"Will anyone pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

He who rebukes God will answer for it."

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

"Why am I still judged and admonished,

Even if I rebuke the Lord, hear such things, and am nothing?

But what answer will I give to these things?

I will put my hand over my mouth.

I have spoken once.

I will not do so a second time."

The Lord yet answered Job out of the cloud and said:

"No rather, gird up your waist like a man,

For I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

"Do you not reject My judgment?

Do you think I have dealt with you in any other way

Than might appear to you to be righteous?

Have you an arm like the Lord's?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now majesty and power,

And clothe yourself with glory and honor.

Send forth messengers with wrath

And humble every insolent man.

Extinguish the arrogant man

And consume at once the ungodly.

Hide them together in the earth

And fill their faces with disgrace.

Then I will also admit

That your own right hand can save you.

"But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

Behold now, his strength is in his loins,

And his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;
His nerves are tightly knit.
His ribs are like ribs of bronze,
And his backbone like bars of iron.

This is the ruler of the Lord's creation,

Made to be mocked at by His angels.

When he goes up to a rough mountain,

He causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

He lies under trees of every kind,

Alongside the papyrus, and reed, and bulrush.

The great trees shade him with their branches;

So do the branches of the willow.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

He is confident, though the Jordan beats against his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes,

Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Will you catch the serpent with a hook

And put a halter about his nose?

Or will you fasten a ring in his nose

Or pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he speak to you in prayer,

Softly with the voice of a suppliant?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird,

Or will you cage him as a sparrow for a child?

Do the nations feed upon him?

Will they apportion him among the nations of the Phoenicians?

All the ships come together would not be able

To bear the mere skin of his tail,

Or carry his head with fishing vessels.

Once you lay your hand on him,

Remembering the battle waged by his mouth,

Let it not be done again.

"Have you not seen him?

Have you not wondered at what has been said of him?

Do you not fear because I am prepared?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me and endure,

Since everything under heaven is Mine?

"I will not be silent because of him,

Though because of his power, one shall pity his antagonist.

Who will remove his outer coat?

Who may enter within the fold of his breastplate?

Who will open the doors of his face,

With his terrible teeth all around?

His entrails are as brazen plates,

And the texture of his skin as a symrite stone.

One part clings to another

So no air comes between them.

A man will be joined to his brother.

They stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light,
And his eyes are like the appearance of the morning star.

Out of his mouth go burning lights;

Sparks of fire shoot out.
Smoke goes out of his nostrils
As from a boiling pot with fire of coals.

His breath kindles coals,
And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Strength dwells in his neck,
And destruction runs before him.
The muscles of his body are joined together.

They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone,
And it stands like an unyielding anvil.

When he turns, he is a terror
To the four-footed wild animals which leap upon the earth.

Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail;

Nor does spear or javelin.
He regards iron as straw,
And bronze as rotten wood.
The arrow cannot wound him;
The sling-stone becomes like grass to him.

Hammers are regarded as straw,
And he laughs at the threat of javelins.

His bed is like sharp skewers,
And all the gold of the sea under him

Is like a great amount of clay.
He makes the deep boil like a brazen pot,

And he regards the sea like a pot of ointment.

The lowest part of the deep is as a captive.

He reckons the deep as his walking range.

On earth there is nothing like him,
Who was made to be mocked at by My angels.

He beholds every high thing;
He is king over all that are in the waters.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 11:11-26

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

A double-tongued man reveals
deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit con-
ceals matters.

Those for whom there is no lead-
ership fall like leaves,

But there is salvation in much
counsel.

A wicked man does evil whenever
he meets a righteous man,

And he hates the sound of stabil-
ity.

A thankful woman raises up glory
to her husband,

But a throne of dishonor is a
woman who hates righteousness.

Lazy men are in need of wealth,
But courageous men support
themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his
soul,

But an unmerciful man utterly
destroys his body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous
works,

But the seed of the righteous is a
reward of truth.

A righteous son is begotten unto
life,

But the persecution of an ungodly
man is unto death.

Perverse ways are an abomination
to the Lord,

But all who are blameless in their
ways are acceptable to Him.

He who joins hands with the un-
righteous will not go unpunished,

But he who sows righteousness
will receive a faithful reward.

Like a ring in the nose of a wild
swine,

So is beauty to an evil-minded
woman.

Every desire of the righteous is
good,

But the hope of the ungodly is
destruction.

There are those who sow their
own things and produce more things,

And there are those who gather
but have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

But an angry man is not graceful.

May the one who hoards grain
leave it to the nations,

But may blessing be upon the
head of the one who shares it.

He who plans good things seeks
good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will cap-
ture him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 65:8-16a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord: "As the grape
shall be found in a cluster, and they
shall say, 'Do not destroy it, for there
is a blessing from the Lord in it,' so
shall I do for the sake of him who
serves Me. For his sake I will not

destroy them all. I will bring forth the
seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah,
and they shall inherit My holy
mountain. My elect shall inherit it,
and My servants shall dwell there.
There shall be in the forest a fold of

flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for the resting place of herds for My people who sought Me. But you are those who forsook Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill a drink-offering to Fortune. I will deliver you to the sword, and all of you shall fall in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed.”

Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants

shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 42:1-6

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know You can do all things,
And nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he who hides counsel from You?

Who keeps back his words
And thinks to hide them from You?

Who will tell me what I knew not,
Things too great and wonderful,
which I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

I will ask You, and please teach Me.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I depreciate myself, and I waste away.

I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

4 Kings 6:8-7:20 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I shall encamp in this specific place.” Then Elisha sent word to the king of Israel,

saying, “Be careful not to pass this place, for the Syrians are hidden there.” In response, the king of Israel sent someone to this place which Elisha warned about, and thereby

kept careful watch over the Syrians on more than two occasions. As a result, the king of Syria became troubled as to what was happening. He called his officers and said to them, "Will you not tell me who gives advance warning of our movements to the king of Israel?" And one of his officers said, "No one, O lord my king. It is Elisha the prophet in Israel that tells the words you speak in your bedroom to the king of Israel." So he said, "Go, see where this man is, and I will send and kidnap him."

They sent word to him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." So he sent horses and chariots and a great army that arrived at night to surround the city. When Elisha's servant arose early and went out, the army was there, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "O master, what shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are greater in number than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he was now able to see, and he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then the Syrians marched toward him, and Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike these people with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. So Elisha said to them, "This is not the city nor is this the way to it.

Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you seek." But he led them away to Samaria. So it came to be when they arrived in Samaria, Elisha said, "Lord, open their eyes and let them see." Thus the Lord completely restored their ability to see. And behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "O father, shall I not strike to kill them?" But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you took captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their lord." Then he prepared a great feast for them, and after they ate and drank, he dismissed them and they departed to their lord. So lightly armed raiding parties of Syrians no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it came to pass that after this, the son of Hadad king of Syria gathered all the troops of his army and went up and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed they besieged it even to the point where the value placed on the head of a donkey was fifty shekels of silver, and two quarts of dove droppings cost five shekels of silver. As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Save me, my lord, O king!" And he said, "If the Lord does not save you from the threshing floor or from the winepress, how can I

save you?" Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give us your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I told her, 'Give me your son so that we may eat him,' but she hid her son."

Now when the king heard the woman's words, he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw that underneath his clothes he wore sackcloth on his body. Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha remains on him today."

Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him, when the king sent a man ahead of him. But before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see that this son of a murderer was sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and keep him on the outside of the door. Is that not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" While yet talking with them, behold the messenger came down towards him; and the king said, "Listen! This evil is of the Lord, so why should I remain patient in the Lord?"

Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'About this time tomorrow, at the gate of Samaria a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and for a shekel, two measures of barley.' "

So the officer on whose hand the king relied retorted to Elisha and said, "Look, even if the Lord in heaven will make a downpour of rain, this event shall not happen." And Elisha said, "Behold, you shall see this with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

Now at the entrance of the gate there were four leprous men. And one of them said to his neighbor, "Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, 'Let us go into the city,' and there is famine in the city, we will die there. And if we sit here in this place, then we will die. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall die." So they rose in the darkness to head to the army camp of the Syrians. They entered the outskirts of the army camp and no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, the noises of a very great army. For the Lord made the army of Syria say to one another, "Look, the king of Israel hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" So they arose in the darkness and quietly fled for their lives, leaving their tents, their horses, and their donkeys at the campsite.

And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away from it silver and gold and clothing. Then they left and came back to enter another tent to take

from there and to hide the spoils. And one said to the others, "This is not right. This day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent and wait until the light of morning, we will find wickedness in the city. Now come here! Let us enter the city and deliver this good news to the house of the king." So they went and cried out with a loud voice toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, "We entered the army camp of Syria and behold, no one was there, not a man nor a human voice. The only things there were the tied-up horses and donkeys, and their tents, which they left intact."

Then the gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the house of the king inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "Now I will inform you as to what the Syrians are doing. They know we are hungry. Therefore they went out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive and capture the city.'"

Then one of his servants answered and said, "Indeed! Let them now take five of the remaining horses, of all that remain of the multitude of Israel, and send them there to see." Therefore they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent them after the king

of Syria, saying, "Go and see." And they went after them even to the Jordan. Indeed all along the way, the road was full of garments and vessels which the Syrians themselves cast away in the panic. So the messengers returned and brought word to the king. Then the people went out and plundered the army camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, true to the word of the Lord.

Now the king had appointed the officer, the one on whose hand the king relied, to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God said who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha said to the king, saying, "Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria." Then the officer had answered Elisha with this retort, "Look, even if the Lord in heaven should make a downpour of rain, this sort of thing would never happen." Then Elisha had answered, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." And so it was in this way; for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Last Friday of Great Lent

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 49:33-50:26

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Now Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, 'Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.'" Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.' " Then Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of

Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph's brothers saw their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps

Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him.” So they came to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, ‘I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ ” Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

So Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households.” Thus

he comforted them and spoke to their heart.

So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, “I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 11:26-12:24

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

He who trusts in riches, this man will fall,

But he who helps the righteous, this man will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

And a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment.

A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness,

But the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time.

If the righteous man is scarcely saved,

Then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

But he who hates correction is without discernment.

He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better,

But a lawless man will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by lawlessness,

But the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are judgments,

But the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are deceitful,

But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

If he does not turn, an ungodly man is destroyed,

But the houses of the righteous remain.

The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man,

But the slothful of heart are treated with contempt.

It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself

Than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

But the affections of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread,

But those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time

Shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

But the roots of the godly are in strongholds.

By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares,

But a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will show mercy,

But he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things,

And the recompense of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes,

But a wise man hearkens to counsels.

A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath,

But an astute man hides his own dishonor.

A righteous man declares his honesty openly,

But the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful.

There are those who wound with a sword as they speak,

But the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

But a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue.

There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things,

But those who counsel peace shall be glad.

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 66:10-24

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders and comforted on knees. Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord’s hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient.

For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger and His renunciation with a flame of fire. For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. “Those who purify and

cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time,” says the Lord; “and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades, to the holy city of Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites,” says the Lord. “For just as the new heaven and the new earth which I make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your seed and your name

remain. It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem,” says the Lord. “They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed

against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 42:7-17

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “You have sinned, you and your two friends, for you have not spoken before Me what is true, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you. For I will only accept him, but for his sake, I would have destroyed you; because you have not spoken what is true regarding my servant Job.” So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and He redeemed their sin for Job’s sake.

Then the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends, and He forgave their sin. But the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then all his brothers and all his sisters heard about everything that happened to him, and they came to

him. So did all who knew him from the first. They ate food and drank with him and comforted him; and they wondered at all the Lord brought upon him. Each one gave him a lamb and four drachms’ weight of uncoined gold.

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first, Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia’s Horn. In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday

The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 49:1-28

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

"Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,

And listen to Israel your father.

"Reuben, you are my firstborn,

My might and the beginning of my children;

You are hard to bear;

You are hardened in your self-will.

Unstable as water in your insolence,

You went up to your father's bed;

Then you defiled it.

"Simeon and Levi are brothers;

They accomplished their injustice from their free choice.

Let not my soul enter their council;

Let not my honor be united to their assembly;

For in their anger they slew a man,

And in their self-will they hamstringed an ox.

Cursed be their anger, for it was self-willed;

And their wrath, for it was hardened.

I will divide them in Jacob,

And scatter them in Israel.

Now Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

"Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,

And listen to Israel your father.

"Reuben, you are my firstborn,

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For in their anger they slew a man,

And in their self-will they hamstringed an ox.

Cursed be their anger, for it was self-willed;

And their wrath, for it was hardened.

I will divide them in Jacob,

And scatter them in Israel.

“Judah, you are he whom your
brothers shall praise;

Your hand shall be on the neck of
your enemies;

Your father’s sons shall bow down
before you.

Judah is a lion’s cub;

From being a shoot, my son, you
have grown up.

He bows down, and slept as a lion
and a cub;

And who shall rouse him?

The scepter shall not depart from
Judah,

Nor a lawgiver from his loins,

Until Shiloh comes;

And to Him shall be the expecta-
tion of the nations.

Binding his colt to a vine,

And his donkey’s colt to its
branch,

He will wash his garments in wine,

And his clothes in the blood of
grapes.

His eyes are gladdened from the
wine,

And his teeth are whiter than milk.

“Zebulun shall dwell by the sea-
coast;

He shall be near a haven for ships,

And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

“Issachar. desired what was good,

Resting between the inheritances;

And seeing his resting place was
good

And the land was fertile,

He set his shoulder to hard work,

And became a farmer.

“Dan shall judge his own people

As one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan shall be a serpent by the way,
A viper lying in ambush by the
path,

That bites the horse’s heels,

That its rider may fall backward,

Waiting for the Lord’s salvation.

“As for Gad, a raider gang shall
raid him,

But he shall raid them in close
pursuit.

“As for Asher, his food shall be
abundant,

And he will furnish dainties for
rulers.

“Naphtali is a spreading stem,

Bestowing beauty by its produce.

“Joseph is a grown-up son,

A grown-up son that was envied.

Oh my youngest son, return to
me.

They devised evil plans against
him and reviled him,

And the archers were taking aim at
him.

But their bows were broken by
force,

And the sinews of the arms of
their hands were enfeebled

On account of the hand of the
Mighty One of Jacob.

Thence, he who strengthened
Israel

Is from the God of your father,

And my God has helped you and
blessed you

With a blessing from heaven
above

And with a blessing of the earth
containing everything.

By reason of the blessing of
breasts and the womb,

He made the blessings of your
father and mother

Stronger than the blessings of
stable mountains and everlasting hills.

They shall be on the head of Jo-
seph

And on the crown of the brothers
he led.

“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;

In the morning he will still be eat-
ing,

And in the evening he will provide
food.”

All these are the twelve sons of
Israel, and this is what their father
spoke to them and blessed them; and
he blessed each one according to his
own blessing.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 40:9-31

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O you who bring good tidings to
Zion, go into the high mountain; O
you who bring good tidings to
Jerusalem, lift up your voice with
strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say
to the cities of Judah, “Behold your
God.” Behold, the Lord is coming
with strength, and His arm is with
authority. Behold, His reward is with
Him, and His work before Him. He
will feed His flock like a shepherd and
gather the lambs with His arm; and
He will comfort those with young.

Who measured the water in His
hand, and heaven with a span, and all
the earth with a handful? Who
weighed the mountains in scales and
the vales in a balance? Who knows
the Lord’s mind, and who was His
counselor; who advises Him? Or with
whom does He take counsel, who
instructs Him, and who teaches Him
judgment and shows Him the way of
understanding? The nations are as a
drop in a bucket and are counted as
the balance of a scale; and they are

counted as spittle. Lebanon is not
sufficient to burn, nor its four-footed
animals sufficient for a whole burnt
offering. All nations are as nothing
and are counted as nothing. To whom
then will you liken the Lord, and to
what likeness will you compare Him?
Has the workman made an image, or
has the goldsmith overspread it with
gold, gilding it, making a likeness of
Him? For the workman chooses
wood that will not rot, and skillfully
seeks to prepare a carved image that
will not totter. Will you not know?
Will you not hear? Has it not been
told you from the beginning? Do you
not know the foundations of the
earth? It is He who possesses the
circle of the earth, and its inhabitants
are like grasshoppers. It is He who
stretches out heaven like a vault, and
spreads them out like a tent to dwell
in. He makes the rulers He establishes
to rule to be as nothing; He makes
the earth as nothing. Scarcely shall
they be planted, scarcely shall they be

sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. “Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice.

For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying, “My way is hidden from God, and my God took

away my judgment and departed”? So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

From the book of Zephaniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. I

shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her?

“Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake,” says the Lord. “I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth. And they shall be put to shame in that day when I do well with you, at the time when I shall receive you, for I will make you praised and renowned among all the peoples of the earth when I return your captivity,” says the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zechariah 9:9-15a

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Proclaim it aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is righteous and saving; He is gentle and mounted upon a donkey, even a young foal. He will utterly destroy the chariots out of Ephraim and the horse out of Jerusalem. The bow of war shall be utterly destroyed, and there shall be abundance and peace among the nations. He shall rule over the waters as far as the sea and over the rivers to the ends of the earth.

“And by the blood of your covenant, you freed your prisoners from the pit having no water. You prison-

ers from the congregation, you shall live in the fortress, and for one day of your exile, I will repay to you double. For I have bent you, O Judah, for Myself as a bow; I have filled Ephraim. And I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against the sons of the Greeks, and I will handle you as the sword of a warrior.” And the Lord will be over them, and He shall go forth like a lightning bolt. The Lord Almighty shall sound with the trumpet and shall go forth with the tumult of His threat. The Lord Almighty will shield them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Palm Sunday

The Prophecies of the General Burial After Palm Sunday

Ezekiel 37:1-14

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord, You know this." Then He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and know that I am the Lord." ' ' "

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He

said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus says the Lord: "Come from the four winds and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live." ' ' " So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly.

Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it," says the Lord.' "

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Prophecies of the Ninth Hour of Palm Sunday

Lamentations 1:1-4

From the book of Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass that after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem became desolate, Jeremiah sat weeping; and he lamented this song of grief over Jerusalem and said:

(Ⲭ) “How does the city now sit alone,

She who was full of people?

She has become like a widow,

She who was multiplied among the nations,

She who was ruling among the countries.

She has become subject to tribute.

(Ⲓ) “She weeps bitterly in the night;

She sheds tears on her cheeks.

Yet among all her lovers there is no one who comforts her.

All who love her have dealt treacherously with her.

They have become her enemies.

(ⲗ) “Judea has gone into captivity Because of her humiliation and harsh servitude.

She dwells among the Gentiles;

She finds no rest.

All who pursue her overtake her in the midst of her distress.

(Ⲑ) “The roads of Zion mourn, Because no one comes to the feast.

All her gates are destroyed,

Her priests groan,

Her virgins are led away,

And she is embittered in herself.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zephaniah 3:11-20

From the book of Zephaniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, you will not be ashamed of all your practices in which you acted profanely against Me. For at that time I will take away from you the contempt of your arrogance, and you shall no longer be haughty upon My holy mountain. And I will leave among you a gentle and humble people, who will show reverence to the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness nor speak vanities; neither

will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they will feed and lie down, and there will be no one terrifying them.”

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you

will no longer see any evil. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, "O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. I shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her?"

"Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake," says the

Lord. "I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth. And they shall be put to shame in that day when I do well with you, at the time when I shall receive you, for I will make you praised and renowned among all the peoples of the earth when I return your captivity," says the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Prophecies of the Eleventh Hour of Palm Sunday

Isaias 48:12-22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Listen to Me, O Jacob and Israel, whom I call: I am the first, and I am forever. My hand also laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand established heaven. I shall call them, and they will stand together. All shall be gathered and hear: Who declared these things to them? Because I love you, I did your will against Babylon, to slay the seed of the Chaldeans. I have spoken, I have called him, I have brought him, and made his way prosper. Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning, nor did I speak in a dark place of the earth. When it took place, I was there, and now the Lord and His Spirit have sent Me." Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: "I am

your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me."

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob." If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall

flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. “There is

no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Nahum 1:2-8

From the book of Nahum the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God is jealous, and the Lord is an avenger; the Lord is avenging with fury; the Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries and drives out His enemies. The Lord is patient and His power is great, but the Lord will not acquit the guilty. His way is in destruction and in a whirlwind; the clouds are the dust of His feet. He threatens the sea and makes it dry, and he dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel have diminished, and the flowers of Lebanon have died out. By Him the mountains are shaken and the hills quake, and the earth heaves

at His presence—the whole earth and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can withstand the fierceness of His anger? His fury melts away ruling powers, and He shatters the rocks into pieces.

The Lord is merciful to those who wait on Him in the day of affliction, and He knows those who reverence Him. For with an overwhelming flood He shall make an end to those rising up, and darkness will pursue His enemies.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Monday of the Holy Pascha

The First Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Zephaniah 1:2-12

From the book of Zephaniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Let all things be totally consumed from the face of the earth,” says the Lord. “Let man and cattle cease. Let the birds of the air and the fish of the sea be consumed. I shall drive mankind from the face of the land,” says the Lord. “I shall stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I shall remove the names of Baal from this place and the names of the priests—those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops and who swear oaths by the Lord and who swear oaths by their king—those who turn away from the Lord, neither seeking the Lord nor holding steadfastly to Him.

“Fear before the presence of the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand. The Lord has prepared His sacrifice; He has sanctified His guests. And it shall be in the day of the Lord’s sacrifice that I shall take

vengeance on the princes and on the king’s house, and upon all clothed with strange garments. And I will openly take vengeance upon all those in the gates in that day, on those who fill the house of the Lord their God with ungodliness and deceit.

“And in that day,” says the Lord, “there will be from the gate the sound of shouting from men killing, and a wailing from the second gate along with a great destruction from the hills. Mourn, those of you dwelling here, being cut down in pieces; for all the people are like Canaan. All those exalting in silver are utterly destroyed.

“And it shall come to pass in that day that I shall search Jerusalem with a lamp and shall take vengeance on the men having scorned their charge, the ones saying in their hearts, ‘The Lord shall not do any good, nor shall He do any harm.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Zepheniah 1:14-2:3

From the book of Zepheniah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“For the great day of the Lord is near. It is near and quick. The sound of the day of the Lord is bitter and harsh. A mighty day of wrath has been appointed: a day of affliction and distress, a day of unseasonable happenings and destruction, a day of gloom and darkness, a day of cloud and vapor, a day of the trumpet and shouting against the fortified cities and the high towers. I will greatly afflict the men, and they will walk as blind men, for they sinned against the Lord; and He shall pour out their blood as dust and their flesh as dung. Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the

wrath of the Lord, but the whole land shall be consumed by the fire of His zeal; for He will bring about a speedy end to all those who dwell in the land.

“O untaught nation, be gathered together and united to one another, before you become like a flower that passes away, before the anger of the Lord comes upon you, before the day of the wrath of the Lord comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth. Bring about justice, seek righteousness, and give answer to these things, so you may be sheltered in the day of the Lord’s wrath.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Joel 1:5-15

From the book of Joel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Get sober, you who are drunk from your wine, and weep, mourn all you who drink wine, for joy and gladness are removed from your mouth. For a nation strong and numberless came up against My land.

His teeth are the teeth of a lion and his molars those of a young lion. He laid waste My vine and splintered My fig tree. He diligently searched out and uprooted My vine, peeling off its outer bark.

Mourn before Me more than a virgin bride clothed with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The meat-offering and the drink-offering are removed from the house of the Lord. Mourn, you priests, you who serve at the altar, for the fields languish and the land mourns; for the grain withers, the wine is dried up, and the olive oil is scarce. The farmers are exhausted. Mourn for the sake of your fields of wheat and barley, for the harvest from the field has been lost. The vine is shriveled up, and the fig trees are scarce in number. The pomegranate and the palm tree, the apple tree and all the trees of the field are withered, for

they put to shame the delight of the sons of men.

Gird yourself with sackcloth and wail, you priests. Mourn, you who serve at the altar. Go in, sleep in sackcloth, you who minister unto God, for the grain-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather all the elders and all the people of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out fervently to the Lord.

Alas! Alas! Alas! For the day of the Lord draws near, and it will come as misery upon misery.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Micah 2:3-10

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I am devising evils against this tribe from which you shall not lift up your neck, nor will you suddenly walk upright, for this is a time of evil. In that day a parable shall be taken up against you, and a dirge will be wailed, saying, 'In misery we have suffered hardship. The portion of my people has been measured out with a measuring line, and there was no one who was able to stop Him. Our fields have been divided among them.'

Therefore there will be no one to put out a measuring line for a lot for you in the assembly of the Lord.

"Do not shed tears, nor even weep over these things; for He will not dismiss the reproaches who says, 'The house of Jacob has provoked the Spirit of the Lord; are these not His practices? Are not His words good with Him, and have they not proceeded as predicted? And previously, for enmity my people resisted against His peace. They flayed his skin to

remove hope in the ravages of war. Therefore those leading my people will be cast out of their luxurious homes; they have been driven out because of their wicked practices. Draw near to the everlasting mountains.’ ”

Arise and depart, for this is not a final resting place for you on account of uncleanness; you have been utterly destroyed by corruption. [You were pursued by no one pursuing!]*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

* [] part of vs 11 found in Souther United States, but not Kitchener.

The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Micah 3:1-4

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He will say, “Hear these things, O heads of the house of Jacob, and you remnant of Israel. Is it not for you to know judgment? you who hate good and love evil; you who seize their skins in order flay them and cut their flesh off their bones? who devoured the flesh of my people by removing their skin, breaking their bones, and

dividing them as merely flesh for the cauldron and as meat for the pot?”

Thus they will cry out to the Lord, but He will not hear them. Instead, He will turn His face from them at that time because they have done wickedly in their deeds against themselves.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The First Hour of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Genesis 1:1-2:3

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was

hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided

the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night.

Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth." It was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth creatures having life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven's firmament." It was so. Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth." So evening and morning were the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind." It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said,

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.” So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them.

Then God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit

yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life.” It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 5:1-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I

shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.” For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry.

Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor.

Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses

should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 1:1-17

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

All wisdom comes from the Lord
And is with Him forever.

Who can count the sand of the seas,

The drops of rain, and the days of eternity?

Who can search out the height of heaven,

The breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom?

Wisdom was created before all things,

And the insight of prudence was from eternity.

To whom has the root of wisdom been revealed?

And who has come to know her great deeds?

There is one who is wise and is feared exceedingly,

He who sits upon His throne.

The Lord Himself created wisdom.

He saw and numbered her

And poured her out on all His works,

In the midst of all flesh according to His gift;

And He provided her for those who love Him.

The fear of the Lord is glory and boasting,

And gladness and a crown of rejoicing.

The fear of the Lord will cheer the heart

And will give gladness, joy, and long life.

For those who fear the Lord, it shall be well to the utmost,

And on the day of his death, he will be blessed.

The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And she was joined with the faithful in the womb.

She constructed a foundation of life among men

And will be trusted among their seed.

The gratification of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And she intoxicates them with her fruits.

She will fill every house of theirs with objects of desire

And their storehouses with her harvest.

The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom,

Making peace and soundness of health to flourish.

The Lord saw and numbered her,

And poured out the power of comprehension;

And He exalted the glory of those
who hold fast to her.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Found in Southern United States, lacking in
Kitchener.*

The Third Hour of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Isaias 5:20-30

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil, who put darkness for
light and light for darkness, who put
bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
Woe to those who are intelligent in
their own eyes and expert in their
own sight! Woe to your strong ones
who drink wine and the mighty ones
who mix intoxicating drink, who
justify the ungodly for a bribe and
take away justice from the righteous
man! Therefore in the manner that
stubble shall be burned by coals of
fire and consumed by a violent flame,
their root shall be like chaff and their
flower shall go up like dust, for they
did not will to do the law of the Lord
of hosts, but despised the word of the
Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of
the Lord of hosts is furious against
His people. He laid His hand on them
and struck them. The mountains were
provoked, and their carcasses were as
refuse in the midst of the road. For all

this His anger was not turned away,
but His hand is still uplifted.

Consequently He shall take up a
banner to the nations from afar and
will whistle to them from the ends of
the earth. Behold, they are coming
swiftly and with speed. They shall not
hunger or be weary. Neither shall they
slumber nor sleep. Nor shall they
loose the belts from their loins.
Neither shall their sandal-straps be
broken. Their arrows are sharp, and
their bows are bent. The hooves of
their horses seem like flint and their
chariot-wheels like a sudden blast of
wind. They rush like lions, and stand
like a young lion that seizes his prey
and roars like a wild animal, then
carries it away; and there shall be no
one to deliver them. In that day, they
will bellow against them like the
sound of the roaring sea. They will
look at the land and behold harsh
darkness in their despair.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Jeremiah 9:11-18a

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is a wise man? Let him understand this. Let him declare to you by the word of the Lord to him why the land was ravaged by fire, and became like a desert no one could pass through. The Lord answered me, "Because they forsook My law which I set before their face, and they did not hear My voice. Instead, they walked after what pleased their evil heart, and after the idols their fathers taught them." Therefore, thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Behold, I will feed them as a matter of necessity, and give them the water of

bitterness to drink. I will also scatter them among the Gentiles, amongst whom neither they nor their fathers are known. I shall send a sword after them until I consume them with it."

Thus says the Lord: "Call for the mourning women and let them come. Send for the wise women and let them give utterance. Let them take up a lamentation over you. Let your eyes run with tears, and your eyelids flow with water. For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Exodus 32:7-15

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But the Lord said to Moses, "Go quickly! Get down from here! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt are transgressing the law. They turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them. They made themselves a calf and are worshiping and sacrificing to it, and are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.' Now therefore, let Me be, that I may burn in wrath against them and consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation." But Moses prayed before the Lord God and said, "Why, O Lord, does Your

wrath burn hot against Your people whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak and say, 'He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath and be merciful to the wickedness of Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself and said to them, 'I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven for multitude; and all this land I spoke about to give

their seed, they shall inherit unto the ages.' ” So the Lord granted mercy for the harm He said He would do to His people.

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the

two tablets of the testimony in his hands. They were stone tablets written on both sides, on one side and on the other.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wisdom 1:1-9

From the book of the Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Love righteousness, you who judge on the earth.

Think about the Lord in goodness
And seek Him with sincerity of heart;

Because He is found by those who do not tempt Him,

And He is manifest to those who do not disbelieve Him.

For dishonest reasoning separates people from God,

And when His power examines someone,

It convicts the undiscerning;

For wisdom will not enter the soul that plots evil,

Nor will it dwell in a body involved in sin.

For a holy spirit of discipline flees from deceit

And sends away undiscerning reasoning;

It will put wrongdoing to shame when it comes near.

For wisdom is a spirit that loves mankind,

But she will punish a blasphemer because of his words;

For God is the witness of his thoughts,

The true examiner of his heart, and the hearer of his tongue;

Because the Spirit of the Lord fills the world,

And He who holds all things together knows what is said.

Therefore no one who speaks unrighteous things

Will escape notice,

Nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

For there shall be a close examination

Into the deliberations of an ungodly man,

And a report of his words will come to the Lord

As proof of his lawlessness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Genesis 2:15-3:24

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord God took the man He formed and put him in the garden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, "You may eat food from every tree in the garden; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat; for in whatever day you eat from it, you shall die by death."

And the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him." Also, God formed out of the ground all the wild animals of the field and all the birds of heaven, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Thus whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all the cattle, to all the birds of heaven, and to all the wild animals of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called

Woman, because she was taken out of Man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on the earth. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden; but from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of the two were opened, and they knew they were

naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Then they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden that afternoon, and Adam and his wife hid themselves within the tree in the middle of the garden from the presence of the Lord God. So the Lord God called Adam and said to him, "Adam, where are you?" He replied, "I heard Your voice as You were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." Thus He said, "Who said you were naked? Have you eaten from the one tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" Then Adam said, "The woman You gave me, gave me of the tree, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Thus the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than all the wild animals of the earth. On your breast and belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel."

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain and your

groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse will be to your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you heeded the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it,' cursed is the ground in your labors. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return." So Adam called his wife's name Life, because she was the mother of all living.

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made garments of skin, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. Now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—" therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of pleasure to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He cast out Adam, and made him dwell opposite the garden of pleasure. He then stationed the cherubim and the fiery sword which turns every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 40:1-5

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” 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.

Proverbs 1:1-10

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David,

Who reigned in Israel,

To know wisdom and instruction,

And to understand words of discernment;

To receive both subtlety of words,

And to understand true righteousness and upright judgment;

So as to give astuteness to the simple,

And both perception and understanding to a young man;

For a wise man who hears these things will be wiser,

And the man of understanding will gain direction.

He will understand both a parable and a hidden saying,

Both wise words and riddles.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,

And there is good understanding in all who practice it;

And godliness toward God is the beginning of perception,

But the ungodly despise wisdom and instruction.

Hear, my son, the instruction of your father,

And do not reject the laws of your mother.

For you will receive a crown of grace on your head

And a gold chain around your neck.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of Monday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Isaias 50:1-3

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord: "Of what quality is your mother's certificate of divorce, by which I put her away? Or to which debtor have I sold you? Behold, you are sold for your sins, and for your lawlessness I put away your mother. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to obey? Is My hand

unable to deliver? Or have I no strength to deliver? Behold, with My rebuke I dry up the sea, and I turn rivers into deserts; and because there is no water, their fish dry up and die of thirst. I clothe heaven with darkness and make its covering like sackcloth."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 1:18-27

From the book of the Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord,

And her branches are length of days.

Unjust anger cannot be justified,

For anger's decisive influence causes his fall.

A patient man will hold fast until the proper time,

Then afterwards gladness shall burst forth for him.

He shall conceal his words until the proper time,

And the lips of many will tell of his understanding.

In the treasures of wisdom are the parables of knowledge,

But godliness is an abomination to a sinner.

If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments,

And the Lord will supply it to you.

For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction,

And His good pleasure is faith and gentleness.

Do not disobey the fear of the Lord,

And do not come to Him with a divided heart.

Do not be a hypocrite in the sight of men,

And be careful with your lips.

Do not exalt yourself, lest you fall

And bring dishonor to your soul.

The Lord shall reveal your secrets,

And in the midst of the assembly He will strike you down,

Because you did not come in the fear of the Lord

And your heart was full of deceit.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday of the Holy Pascha

The First Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Zechariah 1:1-6

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the eighth month of the second year of the reign of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, son of Berechiah, son of Addo the prophet, saying, "The Lord has been very angry with your fathers, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord, "And do not become like your fathers, whom the former prophets accused, saying, 'Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Turn from your evil ways and your

evil practices.' " But they did not pay attention or heed Me," says the Lord.

"Your fathers—where are they? And the prophets—will they live forever? But receive My words and My ordinances as I commanded by My Spirit to My servants the prophets who overtook your fathers." And they answered and said, "As the Lord Almighty determined to deal with us, according to our ways and according to our practices, thus He dealt with us." ' ' "

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Malachi 1:1-9

From the book of Malachi the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by the hand of His messenger Malachi. Take it to heart!

"I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau the brother of Jacob?" says the Lord. "Yet Jacob

I have loved, but Esau I have hated, and I have appointed his borders for destruction and made his heritage as dwellings of the wilderness." Because one will say, "Edom has been destroyed, but let us return and rebuild the desolate places," thus says

the Lord, Ruler of all: "They may build, but I will throw down. They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord has placed Himself forever. Your eyes will see, and you will say, 'The Lord is magnified beyond the borders of Israel.'

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?" says the Lord Almighty. "You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, 'In what way have we disparaged Your name?' You offer defiled bread on

My altar, but you say, 'How have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably," says the Lord Almighty.

"But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept these from you?" says the Lord Almighty.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Hosea 4:15-5:7

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"But you, O Israel, be not ignorant,

And do not go, men of Judah, to Gilgal;

And do not go up to Beth Aven
Nor swear by the living Lord.

For Israel was maddened like a mad heifer;

Now the Lord will feed them
Like a lamb in a wide place.

Ephraim, joined with idols,

Has laid stumbling blocks in his own way.

He has chosen the Canaanites;

They have grievously gone a-whoring;

They have loved dishonor through her rudeness.

You are a blast of wind in her wings,

And they shall be ashamed because of their altars.

"Hear these things, O priests,

And attend, O house of Israel!

Listen, O house of the king!

For judgment is with you

Because you have been a snare in Mizpah

And a net spread on Tabor,
 Which they that hunt the prey
 have fixed;
 But I will be your instructor.
 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not
 far from Me;
 For now Ephraim has gone griev-
 ously a-whoring;
 Israel is defiled.
 "Their deliberations did not allow
 them
 To return to their God,
 For a spirit of fornication is in
 them,
 And they have not gotten to know
 the Lord.
 The arrogance of Israel
 Shall be brought low before His
 face,

And Israel and Ephraim shall be-
 come weak
 Due to their wrongdoings;
 And Judah also shall become weak
 with them.
 "They shall go with sheep and
 calves
 Diligently to seek the Lord;
 But they shall not find Him,
 For He has withdrawn Himself
 from them.
 For they have forsaken the Lord
 Because strange children have
 been born to them.
 Now the rust shall devour them
 along with their heritages.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Hosea 10:12-11:2

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Sow to yourselves in righteous-
 ness;
 Gather in the fruit of life;
 Light for yourselves the light of
 knowledge;
 Seek the Lord till the fruits of
 righteousness come upon you.
 Why have you passed over ungod-
 liness in silence
 And reaped its wrongdoings?
 You have eaten the fruit of decep-
 tion,

For you have hoped in your chari-
 ots,
 In the abundance of your power.
 Therefore destruction shall rise up
 among your people,
 And all your walled places shall be
 gone,
 As Beth Arbel in the time of
 Prince Shalman.
 In the days of battle,
 They dashed the mother to the
 ground upon the children.

Thus will I do to you, O house of Israel,

Because of your evil deeds.

Early in the morning were they cast off;

The king of Israel has been cast off.

“For Israel is a child, and I loved him,

And out of Egypt I have called his children.

As I called them,

So they departed from My presence.

They sacrificed to the Baals,

And burned incense to graven images.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Amos 5:6-14a

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Seek the Lord and live, lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph and devour it, with no one to extinguish the fire for the house of Israel. The Lord is He who brings about justice on high and righteousness on the earth!

“He makes all things. He transforms the darkness into the morning and makes the day dark as night; He calls forth the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name. He rains ruin upon the strong and brings misery upon the fortress.

“They hated him who reproved in the gates and abhorred the upright word. They tread upon the poor and take bribes from him. They built houses of hewn stone, yet they shall not dwell in them. They planted pleasant vineyards, but they shall not drink wine from them. For I know your many transgressions and the enormity of your sins, devouring the righteous and taking bribes, turning away the poor at the gate. Because of this, the prudent keep silent in this time, for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil so that you may live.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The First Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Exodus 19:1-9

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now in the third month after the children of Israel departed from the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came into the Sinai Desert. For they departed from Rephidim, came into the Sinai Desert, and camped in the desert. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

Then Moses went up to the mountain of God, and God called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be a special people to Me above all nations; for all

the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation.' These are the words you shall speak to the children of Israel."

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered with one accord and said, "Everything the Lord said we will do and hearken to." So Moses reported these words to God. The Lord then said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the pillar of cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you forever." So Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 23:2-24:25

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Indeed, I know pleading is out of my reach,

For His hand is heavy upon my groaning.

Who then would know, that I might find Him,

And might bring this matter to an end?

I would state my case before Him
And fill my mouth with arguments.

Would that I knew the words He would answer me

And could understand what He would tell me.

Though He would come on me in
His great strength,

He would not use the occasion to
threaten me.

For truth and rebuke are from
Him,

And He would bring my judgment
to an end.

“Though I should proceed to this
important end

Until I no longer exist,

Still what would I know about the
last things?

When He worked on the left
hand,

I could not understand it.

His right hand will encompass me,

But I will not see it.

For He knows my way already,

And He has weighed me as gold.

I will go forth in His command-
ments;

For I have kept His ways and will
not turn aside.

I will not disregard His com-
mandments;

But I have hidden His words in
my bosom.

“If He too has thus judged,

Who is he that has opposed Him?

Whatever He has willed, that He
has done.

Therefore I pursue Him zealously,

And when I was instructed, I
thought of Him.

Therefore let me be serious before
His face.

I will consider and be afraid of
Him.

For the Lord softened my heart,

And the Almighty has alarmed me.

For I did not know darkness
would come upon me,

But thick darkness covered my
face.

“Why have the times escaped the
Lord’s notice?

“Why have the ungodly stepped
over the boundary,

Snatching away the flock with the
shepherd?

They have led away the donkey of
the orphans

And have taken the widow’s ox as
a pledge.

They have turned aside the weak
from the right way;

The gentle of the land have hid-
den themselves together.

They departed like donkeys in the
field.

Contrary to me, they went forth to
their own pursuits.

Their bread was sweet to their
little ones.

For they harvested a field that was
not their own before the time,

And the weak worked the vineyard
of the ungodly

Without pay or food.

They caused many naked to sleep
without clothing,

And they took away the covering
of their life.

They are wet with the showers of
the mountains

And have huddled around the
rock for want of shelter.

They have snatched the orphan
from the breast

And have humiliated the banished.
 They have unjustly caused them to
 sleep without clothing,
 And they have taken away the
 morsel from the hungry.
 They have wrongfully laid snares
 in narrow places
 And have not known the way of
 righteousness.
 They have cast the weak out of the
 city and their own houses,
 And the soul of the infants sighed
 greatly.
 Why then has He not visited
 them?
 "They are ones on the earth who
 do not know the Lord,
 And they do not understand the
 way of righteousness,
 Nor do they walk in His paths.
 But He knows their works and
 delivered them into darkness;
 And one shall be like a thief in the
 night.
 For the eye of the adulterer
 watches for the darkness,
 Saying, 'No eye will perceive me';
 And he puts a covering on his
 face.
 In the dark he breaks into houses;
 In the daytime they seal them-
 selves up;
 They do not know the light.
 For in due time, the shadow of
 death will be the same to them,
 Because they shall know the trou-
 bles of the shadow of death.
 "He is swift on the face of the
 waters;

May his portion be cursed on
 earth.
 May their plants wither on earth,
 For they have taken away from the
 orphans
 Even the smallest portions.
 Then his sin is recalled to
 memory,
 And he vanishes like a mist of
 dew;
 But what he has done, may it be
 recompensed to him,
 And may every wrongdoer be
 crushed like rotten wood.
 For he has not treated the barren
 woman well,
 And showed no mercy to the fee-
 ble woman.
 "In his anger, he overturns the
 weak;
 Therefore when he rises up,
 No one believes his own life is
 safe.
 When he falls sick, let him not
 hope to recover,
 But let him perish by disease.
 For his exaltation mistreated
 many,
 But he has withered as mallows in
 the heat,
 Or as an ear of corn falling on its
 own from the stalk.
 "If it is not so, who says I speak
 falsely
 And will make my speech worth
 nothing?"
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Hosea 4:1-8

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord,
You children of Israel,
For the Lord has a judgment for
the inhabitants of the land:

“There is no truth or mercy
Or knowledge of God in the land.
Cursing and lying, murder and
theft

And adultery gushed forth in the
land,

And blood is mingled with blood.
Therefore the land shall mourn
And be diminished with all the
things that dwell in it:

The wild beasts of the field, the
reptiles of the earth,

And the birds of the sky,
And the fish of the sea shall come
to an end;

That neither may anyone judge,
nor analyze another;

But my people are as a priest who
is spoken against.

“Thus you shall be weak by day,
And the prophet shall be weak
with you;

I have compared your mother to
the night.

My people are like as those who
have no knowledge.

Because you have rejected
knowledge,

I will also reject you from being a
priest to Me;

And because you have forgotten
the law of your God,

I also will forget your children.

According to their multitude,

So they sinned against Me;

I will turn their glory into dishon-
or.

They will eat the sins of My peo-
ple

And take away their lives because
of their wrongdoings.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Watch yourself, that you do not
forget the Lord your God by not
keeping His commandments, judg-
ments, and ordinances I command
you today, lest—when you have eaten

and are full, and have built beautiful
houses and dwell in them, and when
your cattle and sheep multiply, and
your silver and gold are multiplied,
and all you have is multiplied, when

your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days—then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’

Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 2:1-9

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 21:3b-18

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus says the Lord and Master: “Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green wood and every dry wood in you. The blazing flame shall not be quenched, and every face from north to south shall be burned up by it. All flesh shall know that I, the Lord, kindled it, and it shall not be quenched.” ’ ’ ’ Then I said, “By no means, O Lord and Master. They say to me, ‘This is a parable, is it not?’ ”

So the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and set your face against Jerusalem, and look against the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel. You shall say to the land of Israel, ‘Behold, I am against you, and I will draw My sword out of its sheath and destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you. Because I will destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you, thus My sword shall go out of its sheath against all flesh from north to south, and all flesh will know that I, the Lord, have drawn My sword out of its sheath; and it shall not return anymore.’ As for you, son of man, groan with a breaking heart,

and sigh with bitterness before their eyes. It will be, if they say to you, ‘Why are you groaning?’ that you shall say, ‘Because of the news, for it is coming. Every heart will be oppressed, all hands will be feeble, all flesh and every spirit will faint, and every thigh will be stained with urine. Behold, it is coming and will be,’ says the Lord and Master.”

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, prophesy and you will say, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Say, ‘O sword, sword, be sharpened and furious, that you may slay victims. Be sharpened, that you may be glistening and ready for destruction. Despise and reject every tree.’ So he made it ready for his hand to hold. The sword is sharpened and ready to put in the hand of the slayer.’ ”

“Cry out and wail, son of man, for this sword is come among My people; this sword is come among all the leaders of Israel. They shall be as strangers because of the sword that is come among My people; therefore, clap your hands, because it is justified; and what if even the tribe is rejected? It shall not be,” says the Lord and Master.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 4:20-5:2

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Watch for a proper opportunity
and keep yourself from evil;

And do not bring shame upon
your soul.

For there is a shame that brings
sin,

And there is a shame which is
glory and grace.

Do not show partiality to some-
one to your own harm,

And do not let your respect for
another cause you to fall.

Do not withhold a word in time of
need;

For wisdom is made known by a
word,

And instruction by a word of the
tongue.

Do not speak against the truth,

And do not be put to shame by
your ignorance.

Do not be ashamed to confess
your sins,

And do not exercise force against
the current of a river.

Do not subject yourself to a fool-
ish man,

And do not show partiality to a
ruler.

Fight to the death for the truth,
And the Lord God will fight for
you.

Do not be rash with your tongue
And sluggish and neglectful in
your works.

Do not be like a lion in your home
And act in pretense with your
servants.

Do not let your hand be extended
to receive

And shut when you should repay.

Do not set your heart on your
possessions,

And do not say, "I am independ-
ent."

Do not follow yourself and your
strength

So as to walk in the desires of your
heart.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Genesis 6:5-9:7

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord God saw man's
wickedness, that it was great in the
earth, and every intent of the

thoughts within his heart was only
evil continually. So God was grieved
that He had made man on the earth,

and He thought this over. Then God said, "I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the earth, from man to cattle, and from the creeping things to the birds of heaven, for I am grieved I made them." But Noah found grace in the presence of the Lord God.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, who was perfect in his generation and well-pleasing to God. So Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt before God and filled with unrighteousness. Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with unrighteousness through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of square timber. You shall make the ark in compartments, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. Thus you shall make the ark: three hundred cubits in length, fifty cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. Now when you assemble the ark, you shall gradually finish it up to a cubit at the top, and set the door in its side. You shall make the ark with lower, second, and third stories. And behold, I am bringing a flood of water on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. Whatever is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you;

and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. From every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing on the earth after its kind, two of every kind, they will enter into the ark with you, male and female, to keep them alive. You shall also take for yourself all kinds of food to eat, and you shall gather it both for yourself and for them." Thus Noah did according to all the Lord God commanded him, so he did.

Then the Lord God said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your family, because I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation. You shall also bring with you into the ark the clean cattle by sevens, male and female; and the unclean cattle by twos, male and female; and the clean birds of heaven by twos, male and female, to keep seed alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out from the face of the earth every living thing I made." So Noah did all the Lord God commanded him.

Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. Then Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, entered the ark because of the flood waters.

Also the clean and unclean birds, the clean and unclean cattle, and everything that creeps on the earth, entered with Noah into the ark, two by two, male and female, as God commanded him. Then it came to pass after seven days, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened. Then it rained on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives entered the ark. Also, all the wild animals after their kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing moving upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, entered the ark with Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God commanded him. Then the Lord God shut him in the ark.

Now the flood was on the earth forty days and forty nights. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. So the waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. The waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and covered all

the high mountains. And all flesh died that moves on the earth: birds and cattle, wild animals, and every creeping thing that moves on the earth, and every man. Thus all things in whose nostrils was the breath of life, and everything on dry land, died. So He blotted out all living things on the face of the earth: both man and cattle, creeping things and the birds of heaven. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained alive. Now the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Then God remembered Noah, and whatever was with him in the ark: all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the birds, and all the creeping things. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters dried up from the

earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you. Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives.

Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. So the Lord God smelled a sweet aroma. Then the Lord God thought it over and said, "I will never again curse the earth because of man's works, although the mind of man is diligently involved with evil things from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and spring shall not cease by day or by night."

Thus God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it. For the dread and fear of you shall be upon all the wild animals of the earth, all the birds of heaven, all that move upon the earth, and all the fish of the sea. I have put them under your authority. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as I did the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its lifeblood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of all the wild animals I will require it; and I will require the life of man at the hand of his fellow man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; because I made man in God's image. So then, increase and

multiply; and fill the earth and have dominion over it.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,
And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;
She mixed her wine in a bowl
And prepared her table.

She sent her servants,
Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,
Let him turn aside to me”;

And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread

And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,

And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 40:9-31

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God.” Behold, the Lord is coming with strength, and His arm is with authority. Behold, His reward is with

Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.

Who measured the water in His hand, and heaven with a span, and all the earth with a handful? Who weighed the mountains in scales and the vales in a balance? Who knows

the Lord's mind, and who was His counselor; who advises Him? Or with whom does He take counsel, who instructs Him, and who teaches Him judgment and shows Him the way of understanding? The nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the balance of a scale; and they are counted as spittle. Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its four-footed animals sufficient for a whole burnt offering. All nations are as nothing and are counted as nothing. To whom then will you liken the Lord, and to what likeness will you compare Him? Has the workman made an image, or has the goldsmith overspread it with gold, gilding it, making a likeness of Him? For the workman chooses wood that will not rot, and skillfully seeks to prepare a carved image that will not totter. Will you not know? Will you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Do you not know the foundations of the earth? It is He who possesses the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out heaven like a vault, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He makes the rulers He establishes to rule to be as nothing; He makes the earth as nothing. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be

sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. "Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice.

For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying, "My way is hidden from God, and my God took away my judgment and departed"? So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 7:9-15

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I continued to watch until thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days enthroned Himself. His clothing

was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, and its

wheels a burning fire. A river of fire flowed from before Him. Thousands and thousands ministered to Him, and countless thousands stood before Him. The court was in session, and the books were opened. Then I kept watching because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. I watched until the beast was put to death and destroyed, and its body given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, yet length of life was given them for a season and a time.

I continued to observe the vision in the night, and behold, One like the

Son of Man was coming with the clouds of heaven, until He came to the Ancient of Days and approached Him. Then dominion, honor, and the kingdom were given to Him, and all peoples, tribes, and languages served Him. His authority is an everlasting authority which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed.

My spirit within me trembled with fear, and the visions in my head troubled me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Isaias 30:25-30

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

On every high mountain and on every high hill there will be streams in that day, when many perish and the towers fall. In that day, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, when the Lord heals the wound of His people and the pain of your plague.

Behold, the name of the Lord comes after a long time, a burning anger. The teaching of His lips is with glory, a revelation full of wrath, and the wrath of His anger shall devour like fire. His breath, like an overflow-

ing stream in a valley, shall reach up to the neck and be divided, to trouble the nations for their vain error; and error shall pursue and overtake them. Must you always be glad, and go into My holy places continually, as those who keep a feast, and must you always go with a flute, as those who are glad when they go into the mountain of the Lord, to the God of Israel? God will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and He will show the anger of His arm with anger and wrath, and the flame of a devouring fire. He shall strike violently with

thunderbolts, and His wrath shall be
as water and violent hail.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 6:24-7:5

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, guard the laws of your
father,

And do not depart from the rules
of your mother.

But fasten them to your soul con-
tinually

And wear them as a collar upon
your neck.

When you walk about, bring along
this commandment

And let it be with you;

And as you sleep, let it guard you,

That when you arise, it may speak
to you.

For a commandment of law is a
lamp and a light,

And the way of life is reproof and
instruction,

That you may keep yourself from
a married woman

And from the slanderous tongue
of a strange woman.

Do not let the desire of beauty
conquer you;

Neither be caught by her eyes,

Nor captivated by her eyelids;

For the value of a prostitute is
only one loaf,

And such a woman hunts for the
precious souls of men.

Shall anyone bind fire to his bos-
om

And his garments not burn?

Or will anyone walk about on
coals of fire

And not burn his feet?

Likewise is the one who goes in to
a married woman;

He shall not be guiltless, nor any
who touch her.

It is not surprising if anyone who
steals is caught,

For he steals that he may fill his
hungry soul;

But if he is caught, he will repay
sevenfold,

And by giving all his goods, he
shall deliver himself.

But the adulterer through his lack
of discernment

Obtains the destruction of his
soul;

He bears both pain and dishonor,

And his disgrace will not be wiped
away forever.

For the anger of her husband is
full of jealousy;

He will not spare in the day of
judgment;

He will not take any ransom in
exchange for his hatred,

Nor will he be reconciled by many
gifts.

My son, guard my words,

And hide my commandments
within yourself;

My son, honor the Lord, and you
shall be strong,

And fear none other but Him.

Guard my commandments

And you will live, and my words
as the pupils of your eyes;

And put them around your fin-
gers,

And write them upon the breadth
of your heart.

Say that wisdom is your sister,
And gain discernment as a friend
for yourself.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wednesday of Holy Week

The First Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 22:17-22

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, behold, the house of Israel is mixed before Me—they are altogether mixed—the house is mixed together in the midst of the silver, with bronze, iron, tin, and lead. Therefore thus says the Lord: ‘Because all of you are one mixture, therefore, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem, as men gather silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead into the midst of a furnace, to

blow fire on it, to cast it like metal into a mold. Thus I shall gather you in My wrath, and bring you together and cast you. I shall blow on you with the fire of My wrath and cast you in her midst. As silver is cast into a mold in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be cast in her midst. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have poured out My anger upon you.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Amos 5:18-27

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! What is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! As though he rushed into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness and not light? Is it not

a deep darkness, with no brightness in it?

“I hate, I reject your feast days. I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and meat offerings, I will not accept them. I will not regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the sound of your songs, for I will not

hear your musical instruments. Instead, let justice run swiftly as does water from the mountain, and let righteousness be as a stream that cannot be crossed.

“O house of Israel, did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings those forty years in the wilderness? You

have carried the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of your god Raiphan, which you made for yourselves. Therefore I shall exile you beyond Damascus,” says the Lord—the Almighty God is His name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 13:9, 16:9b-13

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Thus says the Lord: ‘In this manner I will destroy the insolence of Judah and that of Jerusalem. “Behold, before your eyes and in your days, I will bring to an end from this place the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

“It shall come to pass that when you shall announce all these words to this people and they say to you, ‘Why has the Lord pronounced all these evils against us? What is our wrongdoing, and what sin did we commit before the Lord our God?’ Then you

shall say to them, ‘Because your fathers forsook Me,’ says the Lord, ‘for they went after foreign gods; and they served and worshiped them. They forsook Me, and did not keep My law. But you acted in ways more evil than your fathers; for behold, you, each one of you, walk after the evil pleasures of your heart and do not obey Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land and into a land neither you nor your fathers know; and there you shall serve other gods, who will show you no mercy.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Hosea 9:14-10:2

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Give to them, O Lord!	So they shall be wanderers among
What will You give to them?	the nations.
A childless womb and dry breasts.	Israel is a luxuriant vine;
“All their evils are in Gilgal,	Her fruit is abundant.
For there I hated them.	According to the multitude of her
Because of their evil practices,	fruits
I will cast them out of My house.	She has multiplied her altars;
I will not love them any more.	According to the wealth of his
All their leaders are disobedient.	land
Ephraim underwent trouble;	He has set up pillars.
He is dried up at his roots;	They have divided their hearts;
He shall bear fruit no more.	Now shall they be utterly de-
Wherefore, even if they should	stroyed.
beget children,	He shall raze their altars to the
I would kill the desired fruit of	ground;
their womb.”	Their pillars shall experience dis-
God shall reject them	tress.
Because they have not hearkened	<i>Glory to the Holy Trinity.</i>
to Him.	

The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Wisdom 7:24-30

From the book of Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For wisdom moves from one	And because of her purity, she
place to another	penetrates all things.
More easily than motion itself,	So she is the exhalation of the
	power of God

And the emanation of the pure
glory of the Almighty;

Therefore nothing defiled enters
her.

For she is the radiance of eternal
light,

A spotless mirror of the operative
power of God

And the image of His goodness.

Though she is one, she can do all
things;

So while remaining in herself, she
renews all things;

And in every generation, she pass-
es into holy souls

And makes them friends of God
and prophets.

Thus God loves nothing as much

As the one who lives with wis-
dom.

For wisdom is more beautiful than
the sun

And more than every constellation
of stars.

Compared with light she is found
to be superior,

For night succeeds the light,

But evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The First Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Exodus 17:1-7

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now all the congregation of the
children of Israel departed from the
Wilderness of Sin, according to their
encampments and by the word of the
Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but
there was no water for the people to
drink. Therefore the people contend-
ed with Moses, saying, "Give us
water, that we may drink." Moses
then said to them, "Why do you
contend with me? Why do you tempt
the Lord?" Thus the people thirsted
there for water, and the people
complained against Moses and said,
"Why is it you brought us up out of
Egypt to kill us, our children, and our

cattle with thirst?" So Moses cried out
to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do
with this people? They are almost
ready to stone me."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go
before this people and take with you
some of the elders of Israel. Also take
in your hand the rod with which you
struck the river and go. Behold, I will
stand before you there on the rock in
Horeb; and you shall strike the rock,
and water will come out of it so the
people may drink." So Moses did so
before the children of Israel. Thus he
called the name of that place Tempta-
tion and Abuse, because of the

abusive language of the children of Israel and because they tempted the

Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 3:5-15a

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Trust in God with all your heart,
And do not exalt your own wisdom.

In all your ways know wisdom,
That she may cut a straight path for you;

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

And offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness,

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord,

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Hosea 5:13b-6:3

From the book of Hosea the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Ephraim saw his disease

And Judah his pain;

Then Ephraim went to the Assyrians

And sent ambassadors to King Jareb.

But he could not heal you,

And your pain shall in no way cease from you.

Wherefore I am as a panther to Ephraim

And as a lion to the house of Judah.

So I will grasp and go away;

And I will take, and there shall be
none to rescue.

I will go and return to My place

Until they are destroyed,

And then they shall seek My face.

In their affliction they will seek
Me early, saying:

“Let us go and return to the Lord
our God;

For He has grasped and will heal
us;

He will smite and plug the wound
with lint.

After two days He will heal us.

In the third day we shall rise

And live before Him.

Let us know, let us pursue

That we might know the Lord.

We shall find Him ready as the
daybreak,

And He will come to us

As the early and latter rain to the
earth.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Exodus 13:17-22

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Thus when Pharaoh let the people
go, God did not lead them by way of
the land of the Philistines, although
that was near; for God said, “Lest
perhaps the people change their
minds when they see war and return
to Egypt.” So God led the people
around by way of the desert to the
Red Sea, and in the fifth generation
the children of Israel went up from
the land of Egypt. Now Moses took
the bones of Joseph with him, for he
had placed the children of Israel

under solemn oath, saying, “God will
surely visit you, and you shall carry up
my bones from here with you.” So
they took their journey from Succoth
and camped in Etham by the desert.
Moreover, God led them, by day in a
pillar of cloud to show them the way,
and by night in a pillar of fire. Thus
the pillar of cloud by day and the
pillar of fire by night did not depart
from before all the people.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 22:7-18

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who teaches a fool is like one
who glues pottery together,

Or like trying to arouse one from
a sound sleep.

He who tells something to a fool
tells it to a drowsy man,

And at the end he will say, "What
is it?"

If children live honestly, and have
wherewithal,

They shall cover the baseness of
their parents.

But children, being haughty,
through disdain and want of nurture

Stain the nobility of their kindred.

Weep for a dead man, for he left
the light behind;

But weep over a fool, for he left
intelligence behind.

Weep gladly for a dead man, be-
cause he is at rest;

But the life of the fool is worse
than death.

Mourning for a dead man lasts
seven days,

But mourning for a fool or an
ungodly man lasts all his life.

Do not hold a conversation with a
fool,

And do not visit with a senseless
man.

Beware of him, so as to avoid
trouble,

And you will not be defiled when
he shakes himself off.

Stay away from him, and you will
find rest

And not be exhausted by his in-
sanity.

What will be heavier than lead?

And what will be his name but
"Fool"?

Sand, salt, and a piece of iron are
easier to bear

Than a senseless man.

A wooden beam bound together
in a building

Will not be broken loose in an
earthquake;

So a heart strengthened by reason-
able counsel

Will not be afraid in a crisis.

A heart settled on intelligent
thought

Is like a plaster decoration on a
smooth wall.

As fences set on a high place will
not stand firm against the wind,

So a cowardly heart in the thought
of a fool

Cannot stand firm against any
kind of fear.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Exodus 14:13-15:1a

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses said to the people, "Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord's salvation which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. I indeed will harden Pharaoh's heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses."

Now the Angel of God who went before the camp of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud also went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and the night passed; but there was such darkness and blackness, they did not come near one another all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the

waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. He bound the axles of their chariot wheels and caused them to proceed with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots and the riders." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh's army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the Lord's mighty hand and the things He did to the

Egyptians; therefore, the people feared the Lord and believed God and His servant Moses.

Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying:

“Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 23:7-14

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My children, hear the teaching of my mouth,

For he who keeps it will not be conquered.

A sinner will be overtaken by his lips,

And a slanderer and arrogant man will be made to stumble by them.

Do not accustom your mouth to vows,

Nor make a habit of using the name of the Holy One.

For as a servant who is continually beaten will not lack bruises,

So also he who makes a vow and continually names the Holy One

Will never be cleansed from sin.

A man who swears many oaths will be filled with lawlessness,

And that plague will not depart from his house.

If he offends, his sin will be on him,

And if he overlooks it, he has sinned doubly.

If he swears in vain, he will not be declared righteous,

For his house will be filled with trouble.

There is a way of speaking comparable to death.

May it not be found in the inheritance of Jacob;

For all these things will be far from the godly,

And they will not be involved in sins.

Do not accustom your mouth to lewd expressions,

For this is sinful speech.

Remember your father and mother

When you sit in council with great men,

Lest you forget yourself in their presence

And by habit act foolishly.

Then you will wish you had never been born,

And you will curse the day of your birth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Genesis 24:1-9

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my land where I was born, and to my tribe, and take from there a wife for my son Isaac."

And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land you

came from?" But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, who took me from my father's house and from the land where I was born, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To you and your seed I give this land,' He will send His Angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his lord, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Numbers 20:1-13

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Desert of Sin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died and was buried there. But there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. So the people scoffed at Moses and

spoke, saying, "Would we had died in the destruction of our brethren before the Lord. Why have you brought up the Lord's congregation into this desert to kill us and our cattle? Why did you also bring us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place?—a place where nothing is sown, neither figs nor vines nor

pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.” So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the congregation to the door of the tabernacle of testimony and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them.

The Lord then spoke to Moses, saying, “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before them, and it will give its waters; thus you shall bring them water out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as the Lord ordered him. Then Moses and Aaron gathered the

congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear me, you disobedient ones. Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” Moses then lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their cattle drank. But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to sanctify Me before the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land I am giving them.” This was the Water of Contention, because the children of Israel scoffed before the Lord, and He was sanctified among them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 1:11-35

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, do not let the ungodly lead you astray,

And do not consent if they invite you, saying,

“Come with us; take part in bloodshed,

And let us hide a righteous man in the earth unjustly;

And let us swallow him, just as Hades does the living,

And let us take away his remembrance from the earth;

Let us seize his valuable property,

And let us fill our houses with spoils;

Cast your lot with us

And let us acquire a common bag;

Let there be one purse for us.”

Do not walk in the way with them,

But turn away your foot from their paths.

For their feet run to evil,

And they make haste to shed blood.

For nets are not spread before birds for no reason,

For those who participate in murder store up evils for themselves;

And evil is the destruction of lawless men.

These are the ways of all who accomplish lawless things,

For they take away their own soul in ungodliness.

Wisdom sings in the streets;

She moves boldly in the squares.

She preaches on high city walls

And sits at the gates of lords.

At the gates of a city she boldly
says,

“So long a time as the simple hold
fast to righteousness,

They shall not be ashamed;

But those without discernment,
since they are desirous of arrogance,

And are become ungodly, they
hate perception,

And are become subject to re-
proofs.

Behold, I shall bring forth upon
you the utterance of my breath,

And I shall teach you my word.

Since I called, but you did not
obey,

And spoke at length, but you paid
no attention,

But made my counsels invalid,

And were not persuaded by my
reproofs;

Consequently, I will laugh at your
annihilation,

And will exult when ruin comes to
you,

And when confusion reaches you
unawares,

And overthrow comes like a
whirlwind,

And when tribulation and anguish
come to you,

And when destruction comes to
you.

For it shall be, when you shall call
upon me,

I will not listen to you;

Evil men will seek me, but not
find me,

For they hate wisdom, and choose
not the fear of the Lord.

Neither do they wish to follow my
counsels,

But despise my reproofs.

Therefore, they shall eat the fruits
of their own way

And be filled with their own un-
godliness.

For since they wrong the simple,
they shall be killed,

And a close examination shall
destroy the ungodly.

But he who obeys me shall dwell
in hope,

And shall be at rest without fear
from every evil.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

The Prophecies

Isaias 28:16-29

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, thus says the Lord:
“Behold, I lay for the foundations of

Zion a costly stone, a chosen and
precious cornerstone for its founda-

tions, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope.” Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from

the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth. Give ear and hear my voice. Listen and hear my words. Will the plowman plow all day? Or will he prepare the seed before he cultivates the ground? When he levels its surface, does he not then sow the small black cummin, and afterward sow the wheat, the barley, and the one-seeded wheat in your borders? So you will be chastised by the judgment of your God and be gladdened by it. For the black cummin is not cleansed with harshness, nor will the wheel of a wagon roll over the cummin; but the black cummin is threshed with a stick, and the cummin will be eaten with bread. For I will not be angry with you forever, nor will the voice of my bitterness trample you underfoot. These signs came forth from the Lord of hosts. Take counsel; exalt vain comfort.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Maundy Thursday

The First Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 43:5-11

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the house was full of the Lord's glory.

Then I stood, and behold, there was a voice from the house, and a Man was standing with me. He said to me, "Son of man, you have seen the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the house of Israel forever. No more will the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their leaders, by their fornication or murders of the leaders in their midst. When they set My threshold by their thresholds, and My doorpost by their doorposts, with a wall between them and Me, they desecrated My holy name by their

lawlessness, and I destroyed them in My anger and with slaughter. Now let them remove their fornication from My presence, and the murders of their leaders, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

"As for you, son of man, explain this house to the house of Israel, and they will cease from the shame of their sins; and describe to them its vision and its plan. They shall take the chastisements for all the things they did, and you shall describe the house, its design, its exits, and its substance, and all its ordinances. You shall make known its laws to them and write them out in their sight. Then they will keep all My requirements and all My ordinances and perform them.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Amos 4:4-13

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[Thus] says the Lord God, “You come to Bethel and act lawlessly and multiply your transgressions in Gilgal. You bring your sacrifice in the morning and your tithes every three days. Moreover, outside they read things of the Law and call for professions. Proclaim that the children of Israel love these things,” says the Lord God. “And in all your cities I gave you cleanness of teeth, and in all your places a lack of bread. Yet you did not return to Me,” says the Lord. “And also, I withheld rain from you for the three months before the harvest. I caused it to rain upon one city while I withheld rain from another. On one field it rained, but where it did not rain, the crops withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied. Yet,” says the Lord, “you did not return to Me.”

The Lord Smites Israel for Her Sin

“I struck you with a parching and blight. When you multiplied your gardens, your vineyards, your fig

trees, and your olive trees, the caterpillar devoured them. Yet you did not turn back to Me,” says the Lord. “I sent forth death against you by way of Egypt, and I killed your young men with a sword, together with your captured horses. And in My wrath I brought fire upon your army camps. Yet you did not return to Me,” says the Lord. “I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you became like a torch that burns out after being plucked out of the fire. Yet even after all this you did not return to Me,” says the Lord.

“Therefore, O Israel, thus shall I do to you, and because I will do thus to you, make yourself ready to call upon your God, O Israel! For behold, I am the One who strengthens the thunder, and creates the wind, and proclaims His Anointed One to mankind, making the daybreak and the darkness, while treading upon the high places of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name!”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Amos 3:1-11c

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O house of Israel, hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, against the whole family which I

brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, “Out of all the families of the earth, I have especially known you.

Therefore I shall exact vengeance upon you for all your sins. If two people walk together, will each one not come to know the other? Will a lion roar from his lair in the forest if he has no prey? Will a lion's whelp cry out from his den if he has nothing? Will a bird fall to the earth without a fowler? Will a snare be sprung if it has caught nothing? If a trumpet is sounded in a city, will not the people be alarmed? If evil should be in a city, has not the Lord brought it? For the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals instruction to His servants the prophets. A lion shall roar, and who will not fear? The Lord

God speaks, and who will not prophesy?

"Proclaim it in the regions among the Assyrians and to the lands of Egypt, and say, 'Gather yourself to the mountains of Samaria, and behold the many remarkable things in her midst and the oppression that is within her. She does not know the things that will come against her,' says the Lord, 'she stores up injustice and misery in her lands.' " Therefore thus says the Lord God: "O Tyre, your land round about you shall be made desolate, and your strength shall be sapped from you."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 20:27-33

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Therefore speak to the house of Israel, son of man, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Up to this point, your fathers provoked Me by the transgressions they committed against Me. But I led them into the land I swore with an oath to give them, and they saw every high hill and every shade tree. There they sacrificed to their gods; and there they appointed fragrant offerings and poured out their drink offerings. Then I said to them, 'What is this high place you go to?' So they call its

name Bamah, to this day.' " Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord: "Do you defile yourselves with the lawlessness of your fathers, and commit fornication after their abominations? You defile yourselves in the first fruits of your gifts with all your inventions to this very day. Shall I answer you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord, "I will not answer you, nor will an answer occur to your spirit; for it will not be as you say, 'We will be like the

nations and like the tribes of the earth, to worship trees and stones.’

“Therefore, as I live,” says the Lord, “I will reign over you with a

mighty hand, with a high arm, and with anger poured out.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 8:4-9

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For thus says the Lord: “Will not he who falls arise? Or he who turns away, will he not return? Why therefore has this My people turned away from Me in a shameful way, strengthened themselves in their choice, and were not willing to return? Indeed, give ear and listen. Will they not speak thus: “There is no man who repents of his vices, saying, “What have I done?” ” The runner ceases to run his race, as a sweating horse ceases to run when he is tired. Even the stork in the sky knows her

appointed time, as do the turtledove and the swallow of the field. The sparrows watch for the times of their coming. But My people do not know the judgments of the Lord.

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? The lying pen becomes vanity for the scribes. Wise men are put to shame and convicted, for they rejected the word of the Lord. What wisdom is in them?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The First Hour of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Exodus 17:8-16

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for yourself some mighty men and go out, and set the army in array against Amalek.

Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses said to him and set the army in array against Amalek. Then Moses, Aaron, and

Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hands, that Israel prevailed; but when he let down his hands, Amalek prevailed. Now Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and one on the other; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." Now Moses built an altar and called its name The-Lord-My-Refuge; for with a secret hand the Lord wars with Amalek from generation to generation.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Exodus 32:30-33:5b

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You committed a great sin. So now I will go up to God to make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "I pray, O Lord, these people have committed a great sin and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, forgive it—but if not, blot me out of the book You have written." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever sins against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go down and lead the people to the place of which I spoke to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before your face. Nevertheless, in the

day when I visit, I will strike them for their sin." So the Lord struck the people for making the calf which Aaron made.

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Depart, go up from here, you and the people you brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your seed I will give it.' I will send My Angel before your face, and I will drive out the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Gergesite, the Hivite, the Jebusite, and the Canaanite. I will bring you into a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked

people.” When the people heard this bad news, they mourned in lamentations. For the Lord said to the children of Israel, “You are a stiff-

necked people. Beware, lest I inflict another plague on you and consume you.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 24:1-11

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom will praise herself,
And in the midst of her people
she will boast.

In the assembly of the Most High,
she will open her mouth

And boast in the presence of His
host.

“I came forth from the mouth of
the Most High

And covered the earth like a mist.

I pitched my tent in the high places

And my throne on the pillar of
cloud.

I alone encircle the ring of heaven,
And I walk in the depth of the
abyss.

In the waves of the sea, in all the
earth,

And in every people and nation

I have gained a possession.

With all these, I have sought a
place to rest;

In what inheritance will I lodge?

“Then the Creator of all things
commanded me,

And He who created me gave me
a place to live.

He said, ‘Pitch your tent in Jacob

And receive an inheritance in Israel.’

Before the age, He created me
from the beginning,

And in the age to come I will not
cease.

I serve before Him in His holy
tabernacle;

Therefore, I am established in
Zion.

In the beloved city likewise He
gives me rest,

And my authority is in Jerusalem.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 7:1-14

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah. Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your practices, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not entrust yourselves to lying words, for they will not profit you when you say, 'It is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.' For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your practices, if you thoroughly bring about judgment between a man and his neighbor, and do not oppress the resident alien, the orphan, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place or walk after foreign gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land I gave to your fathers of old and forever.

"But if you trust in lying words from which you cannot profit, and you murder, commit adultery, steal, swear to do wrong, burn incense to Baal, and walk after foreign gods you

do not know so as to do evil, and come and stand before Me in the house wherein My name is called and say, 'We have not abstained from doing all these abominations,' then is this house, called by My name, a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I have seen it.

"But go to My place in Shiloh, where I caused My name to dwell before, and see what I did to it because of the vices of My people Israel," says the Lord. "Now then, because you did all these works, and I spoke to you but you did not hear Me, and I called you but you did not answer, therefore, I will also do to this house, called by My name in which you trust, and the place I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. I will cast you out of My sight as I cast out your brethren—all the seed of Ephraim.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 20:39-44

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"As for you, O house of Israel," thus says the Lord and Master: "Each of you put away your practices, and after this, if you listen to Me, you will no longer desecrate My holy name with your gifts and practices. For upon My holy mountain, the high mountain," says the Lord and Master, "there all the house of Israel will serve Me to the end; and there I shall receive you, and look upon the first fruits of your offerings, together with all your holy objects. I shall receive

you as a fragrant aroma when I lead you out from the peoples, and receive you from the countries where you were scattered; and I shall be sanctified among you before the eyes of the peoples. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I lead you into the land of Israel, into the land I swore by an oath to give your fathers. There you will remember all your ways and practices which defiled you; and you shall bewail yourselves for all your evil. Then you will know that I am the

Lord, when I deal with you in the way, that My name be not desecrated

according to your evil ways and corrupt practices,” says the Lord.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 12:13-13:1

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who will pity a snake charmer
when he is bitten,

Or those who go near wild animals?

So no one will pity one who approaches a sinful man

And gets involved in his sins.

He will stay with you for a while,

But if you turn aside from him, he will not put up with you.

An enemy speaks sweetly with his lips,

But in his heart he will plan to throw you into a pit.

An enemy will shed tears, but if he finds an opportunity,

He will not be satisfied apart from shedding your blood.

If evil comes upon you,

You will find your enemy there ahead of you,

And as he pretends to help you,

He will pull your feet from under you.

He will shake his head and applaud with his hands;

And he will whisper many things and alter his expression.

Whoever touches pitch will be stained,

And whoever associates with an arrogant man will become like him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Genesis 22:1-19

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham! Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there

as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offer-

ing, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I

am." He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen."

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice." So Abraham returned to his servants, and they rose and went together to the Well of Oath; and Abraham dwelt at the Well of Oath.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 61:1-7

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the broken-

hearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense,

and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for

generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 27:2-28:13

From the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“As the Lord lives who thus judges me,

And the Almighty who embittered my soul,

Surely as long as my breath is in me

And the divine breath is in my nostrils,

My lips will not speak lawless things,

Nor shall my soul practice wrongdoings.

May it not be I who set forth the opinion that you are righteous.

Until the day I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

I hold fast to my righteousness and am not letting it go;

For I am not conscious in myself of having done anything wrong.

“Surely not, but rather may my enemies

Be as the destruction of the ungodly,

And those who rise up against me
As the destruction of the lawless.

For what hope is there for an ungodly man that he holds to it?

Will he trust in the Lord and be saved?

Will the Lord hear his prayer

When distress comes upon him?

Has he any confidence before Him,

Or will the Lord hear him when he calls on Him?

“But indeed, I will tell you what is the hand of the Lord.

I will not lie concerning what is with the Almighty.

Behold therefore, all of you know

You are adding vanity to vanity.

“This is the portion from the Lord for the ungodly man,

And the possession of oppressors

Shall come upon them from the Almighty.

If their children be many, they will be for slaughter;

And if they reach manhood, they will beg.

Those who survive him shall be
buried in death,

And no one will have pity on their
widows.

Though he gathers silver like dust
And shall prepare gold like clay,

The righteous will acquire these
things,

And the true ones will possess his
wealth.

His house goes away like a moth
And like a spider's web.

The rich man will lie down and
not continue;

He opens his eyes, but is no more.
Pains happen to him like a flood,

And thick darkness takes him
away in the night.

A burning wind will take him up,
and he will be gone;

And it will scatter him from his
place.

It will blow against him and not
spare;

He will try in vain to flee from its
force.

It will strike him with its power,
And whistle him from his place.

"Indeed, there is a place for silver,
from whence it comes,

And a place for gold, from
whence it is refined.

Certainly, iron is taken from the
earth,

And copper is hewn out like a
stone.

He set an order to darkness

And examines accurately every
limit.

A stone is darkness and the shadow
of death.

There is a narrow channel of the
brook because of dust;

So those who forget the right way
Are weakened because of mortal
men.

As for the earth, from it will come
bread,

But underneath, it is turned up as
by fire;

Its stones are the source of sap-
phires,

And its dust contains gold.

There is a path no bird knows,
Nor has the eye of a vulture seen
it.

The sons of the arrogant have not
trodden it,

Nor has the lion passed over it.

He has stretched forth his hand to
quarry stones

And has overturned the moun-
tains by the roots.

He has broken asunder the whirl-
pools of rivers,

And my eye has seen every valued
thing.

He has uncovered the depths of
the rivers

And has brought his power to
light.

"But where can wisdom be found?
What is the place of understand-
ing?

Mortal man has not known its
way,

Nor is it found among men.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Prayer Over the Baisen (Lakane)

The Prophecies

Genesis 18:1-23

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then God appeared to him at the oak of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door during the noon hour. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood before him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, "O Lord, if I have now found grace in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. Let water be brought, and let them wash Your feet, while You cool Yourselves under the tree. And I will bring bread for You to eat. After that You may pass by, inasmuch as You have come to Your servant." They said, "Do as you have said." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a young calf, tender and good, gave it to his servant, and he hastened to prepare it. He also took butter and milk and the calf he prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

Then He said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" He replied, "Here, in the tent." Again He said, "I will

certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "I have not yet had a child until now, and my lord is old also?" Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh within herself, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' Is anything impossible with God? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied she had laughed, for she was afraid, saying, "I did not laugh"; but He said, "No, but you did laugh."

Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham went along and escorted them on their journey. Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know

he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not

they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them.”

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly?

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Proverbs 9:1-11

From the book of Proverbs of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Wisdom built her house,
And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;
She mixed her wine in a bowl
And prepared her table.
She sent her servants,
Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,
“He who is without discernment,
Let him turn aside to me”;
And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread
And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,
And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 14:22a, 14:27c, 14:30a, 15:1ab

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians. Now

Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying:

“Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joshua 3:17

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed

on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 4:2-4a

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—

everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 55:1-56:1

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I

made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you.”

Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy

on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go

forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail."

The Lord says this: "Guard judgment and do righteousness, for My salvation draws near, and My mercy shall be revealed.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 36:25-29a

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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.

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 Eleventh Hour of Maundy Thursday

The Prophecies

Isaias 52:13-53:12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men. Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand.

O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory,

and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty. But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and

the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse

Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Great and Holy Friday

The First Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 8:15-9:5

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For behold, I send forth lethal serpents among you, for which there are no charms. They shall bite you mortally with the pain of your disturbed heart."

Behold, the voice of the daughter of my people cries out from a far land, "Is not the Lord in Zion? Is her King not there?" "No, because they provoked Me to anger with their carved images and foreign vanities." They will say, "The summer is gone, the harvest is past, and we are not saved."

I am saddened because of the ruin of the daughter of my people. Pains have seized me as one who gives birth. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician? Why is no healing taking place for the daughter of my people? Who will give water to my head and a fountain of tears to my eyes, that I might weep day and night for this people of mine, for the

wounded of the daughter of my people?

Who will give me lodging in a deserted place, that I might leave my people and depart from them? For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

"They bent their tongues like a bow. Falsehood, not faith, prevails in the land. For they went from evil to evil, and have not known Me. Let each take heed to his neighbor, and not trust their brothers, for every brother will utterly deceive, and every friend will walk treacherously. Each will mock at his friend and not speak the truth. Their tongue learns to speak lies, and they do wrong. They do not pause to turn back. There is usury upon usury, deceit upon deceit. They are unwilling to know Me," [says the Lord.]

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 36:16-23

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, the house of Israel dwelt upon their land, but they defiled it by their conduct and by their idols and uncleanness. Their conduct before me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore I poured out My anger on them. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them as chaff into the countries. I judged them according to their conduct and their sins. So when they came to the nations, wherever they went, they desecrated My holy name when they said, 'These are the people of the Lord, and they have come out of His land.' But I spared

them for the sake of My holy name, which the house of Israel desecrated among the nations wherever they went.

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord: "I will not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for the sake of My holy name, which you desecrated among the nations wherever you went. Thus I will sanctify My great name, desecrated among the nations, which you desecrated in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, [when I am sanctified among you before their eyes.]*

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**[] lacking in Coptic Reader*

The Sixth Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Ezekiel 22:23-28

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her, 'You are the land not rained on, neither has rain come upon you in the

day of wrath.' Her leaders are like roaring lions seizing prey, who devour souls by domination and receive honors in wrongdoing; and your

widows multiply in your midst. Her priests reject My law and desecrate My holy things. They no longer distinguish between the holy and the profane, nor between the unclean and the clean. They have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am desecrated in their midst. Her rulers in her

midst are like wolves seizing their prey, so as to shed blood and exploit others for greed. Her prophets who anoint them will fall because they see worthless and false prophecies, saying, 'Thus says the Lord,' but the Lord has not spoken.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 9:7-10

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will set them on fire and test them; I shall do so because of the evil of the daughter of My people. Their tongue is a wounding arrow, and the words of their mouth are deceitful. One speaks peaceably to his neighbor, but has hatred in his heart. Shall I not visit them for these things?" says the Lord. "Shall not My soul take vengeance on such a people as this? Take up a wailing on the

mountains and a lamentation on the paths of the desert; for they cease from being a people. They do not hear the sound of existence from the birds of the sky, nor even from cattle. They were astonished; they were gone. I will put Jerusalem into captivity, and it will become a dwelling place of serpents. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, beyond habitation."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 21:33-37

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"As for you, son of man, prophesy, and you shall say, 'Thus says the Lord to the sons of Ammon and to their shame,' and you shall say, 'O sword, sword, drawn for slaughter and for an end; arise, that you may glisten. While you are seeing a worthless vision, and while you are

prophesying falsehood, and while you are handing over the necks of wounded and lawless men whose day has come, whose end of wrongdoing has come at the proper time, turn back, and do not lodge in this place in which you were born, for I will judge you in your own land. I will pour out

My wrath upon you; I will breathe upon you with the fire of My wrath, and deliver you into the hands of barbarians, skilled in working destruction. You will be fuel for the fire;

your blood will be in the midst of your land. There will be no remembrance of you; for I the Lord have spoken.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of the Eve of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Isaias 27:11-28:15

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[And after a time, there will be nothing green in it because of the withering.]* Come here, you women who come from that sight. For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will have no compassion on them, neither He who formed them; and He will show them no mercy. And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will close it from the channel of the river to the Brook of Egypt. And you will gather the sons of Israel one by one. So it shall be in that day that they shall blow the great trumpet, and the lost ones in the country of the Assyrians and in Egypt will come, and they shall worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

Woe to the crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, the flower that fell from the glory on top of the fertile mountain, those who are drunk without wine. Behold, the anger of the Lord is a strong and harsh thing, like a falling hail where there is no

shelter, falling violently like a great force of water, sweeping away the country. He shall bring relief for the earth with His hands. The crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, will be trampled underfoot. But the flower that fell from the hope of the glory on the top of the high mountain shall be like the forerunner of the fig. He who sees it wishes to swallow it before he gets it in his hand. In that day, the Lord of hosts shall be the crown of hope, woven of glory, to the remnant of My people. They shall be left in a spirit of judgment upon judgment and for the strength of those who prevent slaying. For these are led astray with wine and are deceived by strong drink. Priest and prophet are out of their minds by reason of wine; they stagger because of drunkenness; they go astray. This is delusion. A curse will devour this counsel, for this counsel was for the sake of covetousness. To whom have we reported evils and declared a

message? Those weaned from milk and withdrawn from the breasts. Expect affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little. By reason of the contempt of lips and another tongue they will speak to this people, saying to them, "This is the rest for the hungry, and this is the affliction," but they would not listen. The teaching of the Lord God will be for them affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little, so they may go and fall

backward; and they will be in danger, crushed and conquered. Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, "We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected".

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

**Lacking in Coptic Reader*

The First Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Deuteronomy 8:19c-9:24

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen. [Then Moses said to the children of Israel,]

I testify against you today [before heaven and earth]*, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

"Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?' Therefore understand today, the Lord

your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God consumes these nations before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land'; but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to inherit their land, but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will

destroy them before your face, that He may establish His covenant He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thus you will know today, the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to inherit because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people. Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.’ Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘I told you once and

twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.’

“So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

“Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to

wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and inherit the land I give you,’ then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice.

You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you.

Glory to the Holy Trinity

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* [] *Not in OSB, added from Coptic.*

Isaias 1:2-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: “I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me.” Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no sound-

ness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Jeremiah 22:29-23:6a

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“O land, land, hear the word of the Lord: ‘Write this man as a banished man, for none at all from his seed shall be raised to sit on the throne of David, or still as a ruler in Judah.’”

“Woe to the shepherds who scatter and destroy the sheep of My pasture!” Therefore thus says the Lord against those who tend My people: “You have scattered My

sheep and driven them out. You did not care for them. Behold, I shall punish you according to your evil practices. I will receive the remnant of My people from every land where I have driven them. I will establish them in their pasture, and they shall increase and be multiplied. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them. They shall fear no more, nor be terrified,” says the Lord.

“Behold, days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up for David the Righteous Orient, and a King shall reign. He will understand and bring about judgment and

righteousness on the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel shall dwell in confidence.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Jeremiah (No reference, Coptic only)

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And Jeremiah said to Pashhur, “You were resisting the truth for sometime with your father and your children who did sin worse than you. For they set a price to him who has no price, and grieved him who heals sickness and forgives sin. They took the price upon which the sons of

Israel agreed, thirty pieces of silver. And gave it to the potter’s house. As the Lord commanded me, so I say. The judgment of perdition will be upon them and their children forever, for they judged innocent blood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Wisdom 2:12-22

From the book of Wisdom of Solomon the King. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

Because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds;

He denounces us for our sins against the law

And accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

He claims to have knowledge of God,

And he calls himself a child of the Lord.

He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes;

Even seeing him is a burden to us,
Because his life is unlike that of others;

For his paths go in a different direction.

We are considered by him as a hybrid,

And he avoids our ways as something immoral.

He considers the last things of the righteous as blessed

And pretends that God is his Father.

Let us see if his words are true,

And let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

For if the righteous man is a son of God, He will help him,

And deliver him from the hand of those who oppose him.

Let us test him with insult and torture

That we may know his gentleness

And test his patient endurance.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death,

For there shall be a visitation because of his words.”

So they reasoned these things
And were led astray,
For their malice blinded them.
But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Nor hope for the wages of holiness,
Nor judge the reward of blameless souls.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zechariah 11:11b-14

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

[And in that day they will be scattered about. And the Canaanites shall know]* the flock is kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, "If it is fitting in your judgment, give me my payment, or refuse it." And they established my wage at thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is

proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake." And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord. And I threw aside the second staff, the Line, to disband the possessions between Judah and Israel.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

* *□ Lacking in Kitchener*

Micah 7:1-8

From the book of Micah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe is me! For I have become like one harvesting stubble, like one gleaning small grapes after the vintage grapes are picked, but not finding for myself any cluster of first fruit to eat. Woe is me, O my soul! For the God-fearing man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among the men. They all lie in wait, even unto blood, and each one grievously oppresses his neighbor. They prepare their hands for evil; the prince demands a gift, and the judge speaks flattering words; it is the desire of their soul. "Thus I shall take away their good things as the moth who eats away, and as one proceeding by the rule in the day of the watch. Alas!

alas! the time of your vengeance is come; now shall be their lamentation. Do not trust in friends, nor put your hope in those who govern. Beware of your wife and do not tell her anything. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter will rise up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are all the people of his own house."

But I will look to the Lord. I will wait for God my Savior, for my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy, for though I have fallen, yet will I arise, because even if I should sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Genesis 48:1-19a

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, “Indeed your father is sick”; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and went to Jacob. Thus Jacob was told, “Look, your son Joseph is coming to you”; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. Then Jacob said to Joseph, “My God appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me and said to me, ‘Behold, I will increase and multiply you; and I will make of you a gathering of nations, and give this land to your seed after you as an everlasting possession.’

“Now therefore, your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Your offspring whom you beget after them shall take possession of their inheritances within the tribes of their brothers. But as for me, when I came from Mesopotamia of Syria, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there

on the way to Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).

Then Israel saw Joseph’s sons, and said, “Who are these with you?” So Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons God gave me here.” Jacob then said, “Bring them to me that I may bless them.” Now the eyes of Israel were dim by reason of old age, and he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed and embraced them. Then Israel said to Joseph, “I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your seed.” So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and they bowed down with their face to the ground.

Then Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near him. Thus Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. Then he blessed them and said:

“God, before whom my fathers
Abraham and Isaac were well-
pleasing,

The God who has fed me all my
life long to this day,

The Angel who redeemed me
from all evil,

Bless these lads;

Let my name be named upon
them,

And the name of my fathers
Abraham and Isaac;

And let them grow into a great
multitude in the midst of the earth.”
took hold of his father’s hand to
remove it from Ephraim’s head to
Manasseh’s head. So Joseph said to
his father, “Not so, my father, for this
one is the firstborn; put your right
hand on his head.” But his father
refused and said, “I know, my son, I
know.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 50:4-9

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Lord gives Me the tongue of
the learned, so as to know when to
speak a word at a fitting time; and He
causes My ear to listen each morning.
The Lord’s instruction opens My ears,
and I am not disobedient, nor do I
contradict Him.

“I gave My back to whips, and My
cheeks to blows; and I turned not
away My face from the shame of
spitting. The Lord became My helper;
therefore, I was not disgraced. But I

made My face like a solid rock and
knew I would not be ashamed. For
He who pronounces Me righteous
draws near. Who is he who judges
Me? Let him oppose Me at the same
time. Who is he who judges Me? Let
him come near Me. Behold, the Lord
will help Me. Who will harm Me?
Behold, all of you will grow old like a
garment, and old age will devour you,
as a moth does a garment.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 3:9c-15

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Woe to their soul, for they
planned evil upon themselves, saying,
“Let us hand over the righteous man,
for he is burdensome to us.” They
shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe
to the wicked! It shall be ill with him,
for the reward of his hands shall be
given him. “O My people, your
punishers gather you, and those who

make demands of you rule over you.
O My people, those who bless you
lead you astray and trouble the path
of your feet.” The Lord stands up to
plead and stands to judge His people.
The Lord will enter into judgment
with the elders of His people and His
princes: “For you set fire to My
vineyard and the plunder of the poor

is in your houses. What do you mean
by crushing My people and grinding

the faces of the poor?”
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 63:1-7a

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Who is this who comes from
Edom with red garments from
Bozrah, so beautiful in His apparel,
with force of strength? “I speak of
righteousness and saving judgment.”
Why are Your garments red and Your
apparel as one who treads in a
winepress? “I am full of the treading
of grapes, and there is no man with
Me among the nations. I trampled
them in My anger, and crushed them
like earth, and brought down their
blood to the ground. For the day of

recompense has come upon them,
and the year of redemption has
arrived. I looked, but there was no
helper; and I observed, but there was
no one to help; therefore, My arm
delivered them, and My anger was
suddenly present. So I trampled them
in My wrath and brought their blood
down to the ground.”

I remembered the Lord’s mercy,
the praises of the Lord in all things in
which the Lord recompenses us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Job 29:21-30:10

From the book of Job the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Men heard and listened to me
And kept silence for my counsel.
At my word they did not speak
again,
And they were very glad when I
spoke to them.
They waited for my speech
As the thirsty earth for the rain.
If I laughed at them, they did not
believe it,
And the light of my countenance
did not fail.
I chose the way for them and sat
as a ruler;
And I dwelt as a king in the army,
As one who comforts mourners.
“But now they laugh me to scorn,

Men younger than I, whose fa-
thers I disdained;

Whom I did not deem worthy to
be put

With the dogs of my pastures.

Indeed, what profit is the strength
of their hands to me?

For them the full term of life was
lost.

In want and famine, they are
childless.

Yesterday they fled to a waterless
desert in anguish and misery.

They are those who surround the
noisy salt places,

Who have salty herbs for their
food,

And who are also considered
worthless

And deficient of every good thing,
And chew on the roots of trees
because of their great hunger.

Thieves have risen up against me,
Whose houses were holes in the
rocks,

Who cry out among the rustling
bushes

And live under the wild shrubs.

They are the sons of fools and
dishonored men,

Whose name and fame were ex-
tinguished from the earth.

“But now I am their lyre,
And they have me as their by-
word.

They detest me and keep their
distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my
face.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Numbers 21:1-9

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Canaanite king of Arad,
who was dwelling in the desert, heard
the news—for Israel came by way of
Atharim—therefore, he made war
against Israel; and they carried off
captives from them as booty. Then
Israel made a vow to the Lord, and
said, “If You will indeed deliver this
people into my hand, I will anathema-
tize him and his cities.” So the Lord
listened to the voice of Israel and
delivered up the Canaanites; and they
anathematized him and his cities.
Therefore, they called the name of
that place Anathema.

Then they departed from Mount
Hor by the Way of the Red Sea; and
they went around the land of Edom,
and the people became discouraged

on the way. So the people spoke
against God and against Moses, “Why
did you bring us up out of Egypt to
kill us in the desert? For there is no
bread nor water, and our soul is weary
of this worthless bread.” So the Lord
sent venomous serpents among the
people, and they bit the people; and
many of the children of Israel died.
Then the people came to Moses, and
were saying, “We sinned, for we
spoke against the Lord and against
you; therefore, pray to the Lord, and
let Him take away the serpent from
us.” So Moses prayed for the people.
Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make
a serpent for yourself and put it on a
signal pole; and it shall be, if a serpent
should bite someone, when the one

bitten looks at it, he shall live.” So Moses made a copper serpent and put it on a signal pole; and it happened,

when a serpent bit anyone, and he looked at the copper serpent, he lived.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 53:7b-12

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin,

Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 12:2-13:10

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation.” You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. In that day, you will say, “Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all the earth. Exult and be glad, O

inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst.”

The vision against Babylon seen by Isaiah the son of Amoz:

“Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time.” The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings

and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man’s soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and

be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Amos 8:9-12

From the book of Amos the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“And it will come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God, “the sun will set at noon, and the light of day will grow dark over the land. And I shall turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation. I shall place sackcloth on every waist and make every head bald. They shall be as one mourning a beloved one, and those with them as a day of grief.”

“Behold, the days will come,” says the Lord, “that I shall send a famine across the land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but famine to hear the words of the Lord. The waters will be unsettled as far as the sea. And from the north to the east men will scurry about seeking to find the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 11:17-12:13

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed. They

plotted an evil device against me, saying, “Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so

his name might not be remembered any longer.” But, O Lord, You who judge righteously, who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You.

Therefore thus says the Lord against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, “Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands”—“Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.”

O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? You planted them, and they took root. They bear children and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, “God will not see our ways.”

“Your feet run and grow weary. How then will you prepare yourself to

run with horses? You are confident when the land is peaceful, but what will you do when the Jordan floods the land? But even your brothers and the house of your father dealt treacherously with you. They cried out and gathered together in pursuit of you. Do not trust them because they will speak fair words to you.

“I forsook My house and left My inheritance. I gave My beloved inheritance into the hands of its enemies. For My inheritance became to Me like a lion in the forest. It raised its voice against Me; therefore, I hated it. Is not My inheritance the cave of a hyena to Me, or a cave it walks around? Gather together all the wild beasts of the field and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. It was made a complete ruin. The whole land was utterly destroyed for My sake, because there was no man who took it to heart. The tormentors come to every passage in the desert, because the sword of the Lord will devour from one end of the land to the other. No flesh has any peace. Sow fires and reap thorns. Their portions will not profit them. Be ashamed of your boasting because of your disgrace before the Lord.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Zechariah 14:5d-11

From the book of Zechariah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with Him. And in that day, it shall be that there will not be any light, but there shall be cold and frost for one day, and that day shall be known to the Lord. It will be neither a day nor a night, but towards evening there will be light.

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 Eleventh Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Exodus 12:1-14

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the family households, a lamb for each home. If there be too few in a household, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of souls; he will make his count in lambs according to the needs of each one. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first

year. You shall take it from the sheep or the kids. Then you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, nor shall you break a bone of it; and what remains

of it until morning you shall burn with fire. Thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Pascha. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute vengeance: I am the Lord.

Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Twelfth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

The Prophecies

Lamentations 3:1-62

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"I am the man who sees poverty
By the rod of His anger upon me.
He took me and led me away
Into darkness, and not into light.
Surely He has turned His hand
against me
Throughout the day.
"He has aged my flesh and my
skin
And has broken my bones.
He has besieged me
And surrounded my head;
He has worn me down with hard-
ships.
He set me in dark places
As those long dead.
"He hedged me in,
And I cannot come forth;
He made my brazen chain heavy.
Though I will call and cry out,

He shuts out my prayer.
He has blocked my ways
And obstructed my paths;
He has troubled me.
"He is a bear lying in wait for me
Like a lion in a hidden place.
After I departed, He eagerly pur-
sued and caught me;
He has utterly ruined me.
He bent his bow
And set me up as a target for the
arrow.
"He caused the arrows of His
quiver
To pierce my loins.
I became a laughingstock to all my
people,
And their song all the day.
He has filled me with bitterness
And drenched me with gall.

“He also broke my teeth with
gravel

And fed me with ashes.

He took away peace from my soul,
And I have forgotten the good
things.

Therefore I said, ‘My victory and
my hope

Have perished from the Lord.’

“I remembered by reason of my
poverty,

And because of my persecution, I
remembered my bitterness and gall.

My soul shall remember

And meditate within me.

I will fix this in my heart;

Therefore, I will endure.

“The Lord is good to those who
wait for Him,

To the soul who will seek Him,
the Good One.

He will wait for and quietly expect
The salvation of the Lord.

It is good for a man when he takes
up

A yoke in his youth.

“He will sit alone and be silent,
Because he bears it on himself.

He will give his cheek to the one
who strikes him,

And he will be filled with insults.

Yet the Lord shall not reject him
forever.

“For He who humbles will have
compassion

According to the abundance of
His mercy.

For He does not afflict willingly,

Though He humbles the children
of men.

“To humble all the prisoners of
the earth

Under His feet,

“To turn aside the judgment of a
man

Before the face of the Most High,

And to condemn a man

Before he is judged,

The Lord does not command.

Who thus speaks,

And it comes to pass?

The Lord has not commanded it,

“For evil and good shall not pro-
ceed

From the mouth of the Most
High.

Why should a living man com-
plain,

A man concerning his sin?

Our way has been searched out
and examined;

Therefore we shall turn to the
Lord.

“Let us lift our hearts and our
hands

To the Most High in heaven.

We have sinned and acted in an
ungodly way;

Thus You have not shown us
mercy.

But You visited us in anger

And drove us away.

You have put us to death

And not spared us.

“You veiled Yourself with a cloud

Because of our prayer.

To close my eyes and to reject me,

You have placed us in the midst of
the peoples.

All our enemies have opened

Their mouth against us.
 "Fear and anger have come upon
 us,
 Yes, devastation and destruction.
 My eyes will shed tears for for-
 giveness
 Because of the destruction of the
 daughter of my people.
 My eyes are drowned with tears,
 And I will not keep silent;
 So there shall be no rest,
 "Until the Lord bends down
 And sees from heaven.
 My eyes will bring suffering in my
 soul
 Because of all the daughters of the
 city.
 My enemies hunted me down
 Without cause, like a sparrow.
 "They put my life to death in the
 pit
 And threw a stone at me.
 Water flowed over my head;
 I said, 'I am rejected.'
 I called on Your name, O Lord,
 From the lowest pit.
 "You heard my voice;
 Do not hide Your ears from my
 supplication.

You drew near at my call on the
 day I called upon You.
 You said to me, 'Do not fear.'
 O Lord, You pleaded the case for
 my soul;
 You redeemed my life.
 "O Lord, You saw my troubles;
 You judged my cause.
 You saw all their vengeance
 In all their reasoning against me.
 You heard their taunts
 And all their plots against me,
 "And the lips of those who rose
 up against me,
 And their meditations against me
 all the day.
 Look at their eyes
 As they sit down and rise up.
 You shall render a recompense to
 them, O Lord,
 According to the works of their
 hands.
 "You shall repay them as a cover-
 ing
 Your hardship for them.
 You shall pursue them in Your
 wrath and utterly destroy them
 From under heaven, O Lord.
Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Bright Saturday

Midnight

The Prophecies of Midnight

Note: while these are today considered prophecies read during the Midnight Vigil of Bright Saturday, they are in fact additional Canticles, which used to exist as a larger canon of Midnight Priase than the rite retains today. They remain in Bright Saturday as a vestige of the older, fuller rite, though now confused as prophecy readings.

Deuteronomy 32:1-43, The Second Cantic of Moses the Prophet

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Take heed, O heaven, and I will
speak;

And let the earth hear the words
of my mouth.

Let my proverbial saying be awaited
as the rain,

And let my words come down
As raindrops on the wild grass,
And as snowfall on the sown
grass.

For I invoke the Lord’s name:
Ascribe greatness to our God.
He is God, His works are true;
And all His ways are judgment,
A faithful God and without injustice;

Righteous and holy is the Lord.

“They sinned; the blameworthy
children are not His,

A generation twisted and perverse.
Is this how you repay the Lord,
O foolish and unwise people?

Is He not your Father, who acquired you?

Has He not made and created
you?

“Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.

Ask your father, and he will tell
you;

Your elders, and they will tell you:
When the Most High divided the
nations,

When He scattered the sons of
Adam,

He set the boundaries of the nations
By the number of God’s angels.

For the Lord’s portion became the
people of Jacob;

The allotment of His inheritance is
Israel.

“He provided for him in the desert,
In thirst of heat in a waterless place.

He encircled him; He instructed
him;

He guarded him carefully as the
apple of His eye.

As an eagle covers its nest,
Yearns after its young,
Spreading out its wings, taking
them up,

Carrying them on its back,
So the Lord alone led them,
And there was no foreign god
with them.

“He raised them on the strength
of the land;

He fed them on the produce of
the fields;

He suckled them on honey from
the rock

And oil from the solid rock,
Butter of oxen and milk of sheep,
With fat of lambs and goats,
Of sons of bulls and goats,
With the choicest wheat;
And you drank wine, the blood of
grapes.

“So Jacob ate and was filled, and
the beloved kicked;

He grew fat, he grew thick, he is
obese.

Then he forsook God who made
him

And stood back from God his
Savior.

They provoked Me to wrath
against foreign gods;

With their abominations they em-
bittered Me.

They sacrificed to demons, and
not to God,

To gods they did not know;
New ones, recent gods arrived,
Which their fathers did not know.

You abandoned the God who
begot you,

And forgot the God who nour-
ished you.

“So the Lord saw it, and was jeal-
ous;

And He was provoked to anger by
His sons and daughters.

Then He said, ‘I will turn My face
from them,

And I will make known what their
end will be;

For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faith.

They provoked Me to jealousy by
what is not God;

They moved Me to anger by their
idols;

But I will provoke them to jeal-
ousy by those who are not a nation;

I will move them to anger by a
foolish nation.

For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And shall burn to the lowest
Hades;

It shall consume the land with its
produce

And set on fire the foundations of
the mountains.

‘I will gather evils on them;

I will spend My arrows on them.

They shall be wasted with hunger,

Devoured by birds and incurable
disease;

I will also send against them the
teeth of wild animals

With the anger of things crawling
on the earth.

The sword shall make them child-
less outside,

And fear from the inner chambers,

For the young man and virgin,

The nursing child with the elder of gray hairs.

I said, "I will scatter them;

I will make their memory cease from among men,"

But for the wrath of the enemy, lest they live long,

Lest their adversary make a joint attack,

Lest they should say, "Our hand is high;

And it is not the Lord who did all this." '

"For they are a nation void of counsel,

Nor is there understanding in them.

They were not wise to understand these things;

Let them be concerned for the coming time.

How could one chase a thousand

And two put ten thousand to flight

Unless God had sold them,

And the Lord delivered them up?

For our God is not like their gods,

But our enemies are foolish.

For their vineyard is of the vineyard of Sodom,

And their vine is of Gomorrah;

Their grapes are grapes of gall;

Their clusters are bitter.

Their wine is the wrath of serpents,

And the incurable wrath of asps.

'Behold, is this not laid up in store with Me,

Sealed up among My treasures?

I shall repay on the day of vengeance;

In time, when their foot shall slip;

For the day of their calamity is at hand,

And is waiting, ready for them.'

"For the Lord will judge His people,

And have compassion on His servants;

For He sees them disabled

And left in distress and weakened.

The Lord said,

'Where are their gods in which they trusted?

Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,

And drank the wine of their drink offerings?

Let them rise and help you

And be your defender.

'Now see, I, even I, am He,

And there is no God besides Me;

I kill and I make alive;

I wound and I heal;

Nor is there any who can deliver from My hands.

For I raise My hand to heaven,

And I swear by My right hand, and say,

"As I live forever,

for I whet My sword like lightning;

And My hand takes hold on judgment.

I will render vengeance on My enemies,

And repay those who hate Me.

I will make My arrows drunk from blood;

And My sword shall devour flesh
From the blood of the slain and the captives,

From the heads of the leaders of the enemy.”’

“Rejoice, O Heavens, together with Him,

And worship Him, all the sons of God;

Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people;

And let all the angels of God be strong with Him;

For He will avenge the blood of His sons

And render vengeance to His adversaries;

And the Lord will purify His people’s land.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Kings 2:1b-10 The Prayer of Hanna, Samuel’s Mother

From the book of Kings of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,
And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Habbakkuk 3:2-19 The Prayer of Habakkuk

From the book of Habbakkuk 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 mercy.

God will come from Teman,
The Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees. Pause.

His excellence covered the heavens,

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 Midian.

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.

Jonas 2:2-10 The Prayer of Jonas the Prophet

From the book of Jonas the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And from the belly of the sea
 creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his
 God, and said:
 "I cried out in my affliction to the
 Lord, my God,
 And He heard my voice;
 Out of the belly of Hades, You
 heard the cry of my voice.
 You cast me into the depths of the
 heart of the sea,

And rivers encompassed me;
 All Your surging waters and Your
 waves passed over me.
 And I said, 'I have been driven
 away from Your sight;
 Shall I again look with favor to-
 ward Your holy temple?'
 Water is poured over me to my
 soul;
 The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,
The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.

When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord.

May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You,

To You, the Lord of Deliverance.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 38:10-20 The Prayer of King Hezekiah

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“I said at the end of my days near the gates of Hades, ‘I shall leave behind the remainder of my years.’ I said, ‘I shall no longer see the salvation of my God upon the earth; I shall no longer see a man among my kindred.’ I left behind what remained of my life. It went away and departed from me like one who takes down a tent. My breath became in me like the web of a weaver when she draws near to cut it. On that day I was given as to a lion until morning. So He broke my bones, for from day until night I was given over. Like a swallow, so shall I cry; I will mourn like a dove. My eyes fail from looking to the height of heaven toward the Lord, who

delivered me and removed the pain of my soul. O Lord, it was told You concerning this, and You revived my breath; and I was comforted and lived. For You chose my soul that it should not perish, and You cast all my sins behind me. For those in Hades shall not praise You, neither will the dead bless You; nor shall those in Hades hope for Your mercy. The living shall praise You as I do. For from this day forward, I shall cause children to declare Your righteousness, O Lord of my salvation, and I shall not cease to bless You with the psaltery all the days of my life before the house of God.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

2 Chronicles 37:1-15 The Prayer of King Manasses

The Prayer of Manasseh. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their righteous seed; who made heaven and earth with all their

ornamentation; who set the bounds of the sea by the word of Your command; who closed the abyss and sealed it by Your fearful and glorious

name; before whom all things tremble and fear because of Your power; for the majesty of Your glory is unbearable, and the wrath of Your threats toward sinners cannot be withstood; yet Your merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable. For You are the Lord Most High, and are tenderhearted, patient, very merciful, and who repent toward the evils of man.

“Therefore You, O Lord God of the righteous, have not appointed repentance for the righteous, for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who have not sinned against You; but You have appointed repentance for me, a sinner, because I have sinned more than the number of the sands on the seashore. My lawlessness, O Lord, is multiplied. Yes, my lawlessness is multiplied, and I am not worthy to fix my eyes to behold the heights of heaven because of the multitude of my wrongdoings. I am bent down with so many iron chains that I shake

my head over my sins, neither do I have any relief. For I have provoked Your anger and done evil in your sight. I have set up abominations and multiplied idols.

“Now therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, begging goodness from You. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my lawlessness. I ask and beg you: forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me because of my lawlessness; neither reserve evils for me, nor be wrathful forever; nor condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth; for You are the Lord God of those who repent. And in me, though I am unworthy, You will show Your goodness, and will save me according to Your great mercy. Therefore I shall praise You continually all the days of my life, for all the powers of the heavens praise You, and Yours is the glory unto the ages. Amen.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 26:8b-20 The First Prayer of Isaias the Prophet

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. The ungodly man ceases; he will not learn righteousness on the earth; he will not do the truth; let the ungodly man be taken away, that he may not see the glory of the Lord. O Lord, Your arm is exalted,

but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed, for jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries. O Lord our God, grant us peace, for You render everything to us. O Lord our God, possess us; O Lord, we know no other besides You; we name Your name. The dead will not see life; neither will physicians raise them. Therefore You brought evils upon them and destroyed them,

and took away every male of theirs. Bring more evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth. O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction. As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved because of Your fear, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain, and we have given birth. We brought forth the spirit of

Your salvation on the earth. But the inhabitants of the world shall fall. The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad, for your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end.” Come, my people, enter your closets and shut your door; hide yourself for a very short while, until the anger of the Lord is past.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 25:1-12 The Second Prayer of Isaias

Again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they

shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation.” For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 26:1-9 The Third Prayer of Isaias

And again from the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: "Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to

the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Lamentations 5:16-22 The Prayer of Jeremias the Prophet

From the Lamentations of Jeremias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The crown fell from our head;
Woe to us, because we sinned!
Because of this, our heart has become painful;
Because of this, our eyes have remained in darkness.
On Mount Zion, because it is desolate,
Foxes pass through it.
"But You, O Lord, shall dwell forever,

Your throne from generation to generation.
Why will You utterly forget us?
Will You forsake us for so long a time?
Turn us back to You, O Lord,
And we shall be converted;
Renew our days as before.
For You have indeed rejected us,
And are exceedingly angry with us."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Baruch 2:11-15 The Prayer of Baruch the Prophet

From the book of Baruch the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

'And now, O Lord God of Israel, who with a mighty hand led Your people out of the land of Egypt with

signs and wonders, with great power and with outstretched arm, and made a name for Yourself then, as it

continues to this day, we have sinned and acted ungodly, we have acted unrighteously, O Lord our God, against all Your commandments. Let Your wrath turn away from us, for only a few of us remain within the nations where You scattered us. O Lord, hear our prayer and our

petition, and for Your own sake deliver us, and grant us mercy before those who have carried us into exile, in order that the whole earth may come to know that You are the Lord our God, for Israel and his descendants are called by Your name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

3 Kings 18:27a, 36-39 The Prayer of Elias the Prophet

From the Third book of Kings the Prophet. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then it came to pass at noon that Elijah cried out to heaven and said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for Your sake I do all these works. Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God,

so as turn the heart of this people back."

Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, "Truly, the Lord is God; He is God."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 The First Prayer of David the King and Prophet

From the first book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

With this, King David blessed the Lord before all the assembly, saying, "Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel, our Father, unto the ages of ages. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the might. You are master over all that is in heaven and on the earth. Every king and nation is thrown into confusion before You.

From the first, You are the wealth and the glory who reigns over all, as the Lord and dominion of all. In Your hand is power and authority, and you are almighty with Your hand to increase and establish all things. And now, Lord, we give thanks to You, and we praise Your glorious name.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

3 Kings 8:20-30 The Prayer of King Solomon

From the third book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said, “O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, who keep Your covenant and Your mercy with Your servant who walks before You with all his heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as today. Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your people guard and keep their ways to walk before Me, as you walked before Me.’ So now, O Lord God of Israel, let the word be confirmed You spoke to Your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell with men on earth? If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be suffi-

cient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place day and night. You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.

“When anyone sins against his neighbor, or if he takes up an oath that he should swear, and comes and redeems himself before Your altar in this temple, You will hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your people Israel; condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving to him according to his righteousness.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 9:4-19 The Prayer of Daniel the Prophet

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

So I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession. I said, “O Lord God, great and marvelous, who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and keep Your commandments—we sinned and did wrong. We acted lawlessly, fell away, and turned away from Your commandments and judgments. Neither did we obey Your servants the

prophets who spoke in Your name to our kings, our rulers, our fathers, and to all the people in the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but shame of face belongs to us, as it is today, to the men of Judah, to those who dwell in Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those near and far in all the earth, wherever You scattered them in their faithlessness by which they

rejected You. O Lord, shame of face belongs to us, our kings, our rulers, and to our fathers who sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, whereas we fell away. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by the hands of His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel transgressed Your law and turned aside, so as not to obey Your voice. Therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has come upon us, because we sinned against You. So He confirmed His words which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us great calamities; for under the whole heaven such has not taken place, as the things that happened in Jerusalem. As it is written in the Law of Moses, all these calamities came upon us, yet we have not entreated the Lord our God so as to turn from our wrongdoings, and to gain insight into all Your truth. Therefore the Lord watched and brought all these things upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in every work He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. So now, O

Lord our God, who brought Your people from the land of Egypt with a strong hand, and who made Yourself a name as it is this day, we have sinned and acted lawlessly.

“O Lord, in all Your mercy, let Your anger and Your wrath be turned away from Your city of Jerusalem, Your holy mountain, though we have sinned; for in our wrongdoings and those of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a disgrace among all those around us. So now, O Lord our God, listen to the prayers of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is deserted because of You, O Lord. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our destruction and that of Your city, in which Your name is called upon; for not on the basis of our righteous deeds do we bring our prayer for mercy before You, but on the basis of Your abundant mercy. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay for Your sake, O my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 3:1b-24, 51 The Story of the Three Children

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebu-

chadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to

the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers—all those in authority who ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made.

Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, “To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.” So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up.

Daniel’s Companions Refuse Idol Worship

Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever. You, O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, but does

not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I set up? Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. For there is a God in the heavens, whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will

not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast

into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord.

Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 3:91-97a

Now Nebuchadnezzar heard their singing, and he marveled and rose up in haste, and said to his nobles, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They replied to the king, “Truly, O king.” Then the king said, “Behold, I see four men untied and walking in the midst of the fire, yet they are not destroyed; and the vision of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Then the king approached the door of the burning fiery furnace, and called out to them by name, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come forth and come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came forth from the midst of the fire. Then the governors, the commanders, the viceroys, and the court officials gathered together and beheld the men, that the fire had no power over their bodies; neither had it singed

their hair, nor scorched their clothes, nor was the smell of fire on them.

So King Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed is the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent His Angel and saved His servants who trusted in Him; for they altered the word of the king and handed over their bodies to be burned, so as not to serve and worship any god other than their God. Therefore I make a decree: ‘Any people, tribe, or language that blasphemes the God of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego shall be destroyed, and their houses plundered, because there is no other God who can deliver in this way.’ ” Then the king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego authority over the province of Babylon,

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Daniel 0 The Story of Susana

From the book of Daniel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

There was a man living in Babylon, and his name was Jehoiakim. He took a wife whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Hilkiyah, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous and taught their daughter according to the Law of Moses. Jehoiakim was exceedingly wealthy, with a spacious garden adjoining his house, and the Jews came to him because he was the most honored of them all. In that year, two elders from the people were appointed as judges, concerning whom the Lord said, "Lawlessness came forth out of Babylon from the elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people." These men were frequently at Jehoiakim's house, and all who had judgments came to them.

Now when the people departed at midday, Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk. So the two elders would see her going in and walking about every day, and they desired her. They turned away their heart and averted their eyes from looking to heaven, and from remembering righteous judgments. Both were pierced to the heart for her, but they did not tell each other their pain. They were ashamed to inform one another of their desire, because they wished to have relations with her. So every day they eagerly watched to see her. Finally they said to one another,

"Let us go home, for it is time for the midday meal," and going out, they parted from each other. But turning back, they met again, and when they pressured each other for the reason, they confessed their desire. Together they arranged for a time they could find her alone.

Then it came to pass, while they were waiting for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids. She also wished to bathe in the garden, for it was hot. For no one was there except the two elders, who hid themselves and were watching her. She said to her maids, "Bring me oil and ointments, and shut the doors of the garden, that I may bathe." They did as she said and closed the garden doors. They went out by the side doors to bring the things commanded, but did not see the elders, because they were hidden.

When the maids left, the two elders arose and ran to her, and said, "Look, the doors of the garden are closed, and no one will see us, and we desire you. Therefore give us your consent and lie with us. If you do not, we will testify that a young man was with you, and because of this you sent your maids away from you." Then Susanna sighed deeply and said, "I am hemmed in on all sides, for if I do this thing, it is death for me; yet if I do not, I will not escape your hands. But it is better for me not to do it and

to fall into your hands, than to sin against the Lord.” Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders cried out against her. One of them ran and opened the garden doors. When the household servants heard the cry in the garden, they rushed in by the side doors to see what had happened to her. So when the elders told their tale, the servants were deeply ashamed, for such a report had never been made about Susanna.

Then it came to pass the next day, when the people assembled at the house of Jehoiakim, her husband, the two elders also came full of their lawless purpose against Susanna, to have her put to death. They said before all the people, “Send for Susanna the daughter of Hilkiah, who is the wife of Jehoiakim.” So they sent for her, and she came with her parents, her children, and all her kindred. Now Susanna was very desirable and beautiful to behold. However, she was veiled; thus the lawless men commanded she be unveiled, so as to enjoy her beauty. But her friends and all who saw her wept. Then the two elders arose in the midst of the people and laid their hands upon her head. She wept and looked up to heaven; for her heart trusted in the Lord. The two elders said, “As we were walking in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, closed the doors of the garden, and dismissed the maids. Then a young man who was hidden

came to her and lay with her. Now we were in a corner of the garden and saw this lawlessness. So we ran to them and saw them having relations. But we could not hold the man, for he was stronger than we. He then opened the doors and rushed out. So we seized this woman and asked her who the young man was, but she was unwilling to tell us.” Thus the assembly believed them, as they were elders and judges among the people. So they condemned her to death.

But Susanna cried out with a loud voice and said, “O eternal God, who know both what is secret and all things before they come to be, You know these men testified against me falsely, and behold, I shall die, though I did none of the things they wickedly invented against me.” The Lord heard her voice, and as she was being led away to be put to death, God aroused the holy spirit of a young boy, whose name was Daniel. He cried out with a loud voice, “I am innocent of the blood of this woman.” So all the people turned to him and said, “What is this thing you said?” Then he stood in their midst and said, “Are you such fools, O sons of Israel? Without examination or knowledge of the evidence, have you condemned a daughter of Israel? Return to the place of judgment, for these men testified against her falsely.”

So all the people returned with haste. The elders said to him, “Come, sit in our midst and inform us, for God gives you that privilege.” Daniel

then said to them, "Separate them far from each other, and I will examine them." When they were separated from each other, he summoned one of them and said to him, "You old man of evil days, now the sins you committed in earlier days have come home; for you pronounce unjust judgments, condemn the innocent, and set the guilty free. Yet the Lord said, 'You shall not kill the innocent and the righteous.' Now then, if indeed you saw her, tell me, under which tree did you see them being intimate with each other?" He replied, "Under a mastic tree." Daniel then said, "Plainly, you lied against your own head, for even now the angel of God receives the sentence from God, and he shall cut you in two."

Then he removed him, and commanded them to bring the other. He said to him, "You seed of Canaan and not of Judah, beauty deceived you, and desire turned away your heart. This is how both of you deal with the daughters of Israel, and they have been intimate with you through fear; but a daughter of Judah would not endure your lawlessness. Now then,

tell me, under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?" He replied, "Under the evergreen oak." Daniel said to him, "Plainly, you also lied against your own head, for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to cut you in two, that he may destroy both of you."

Then the whole assembly cried out with a loud voice and blessed God, who saves those who hope in Him. So they rose up against the two elders, for Daniel convicted them out of their own mouth of bearing false witness; and they did to them the thing they maliciously intended to do against their neighbor. For acting in accordance with the Law of Moses, they put them to death. Therefore innocent blood was saved on that day.

Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter, with Jehoiakim her husband and all her kindred, because nothing shameful was found in her. Thus Daniel had a great reputation among the people from that day onward.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Morning or Prime

The Prophecies

Isaias 55:2-13

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you.”

Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. “For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your

ways My ways,” says the Lord. “But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Third Hour of Bright Saturday

The Prophecies

Jeremiah 13:15-22

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Listen and give ear. Do not exalt yourselves, for the Lord has spoken. Give glory to the Lord your God before it grows dark, and causes your

feet to stumble on the dark mountains. You shall wait in anticipation of the light, but the shadow of death will be there; and they shall bring you into

darkness. Now if you will not hear, your soul will weep secretly because of your insolent countenance, and your eyes will bring forth tears, for the Lord's flock is broken apart. Say to the king and to the nobles, "Humble yourself and sit down, for your crown of glory is removed from your head." The cities to the south were shut, and there was no one to open them. Judah is sent away completely as a settlement.

Lift up your eyes, O Jerusalem, and see those who come from the

north. Where is the flock given to you, the sheep of your glory? What will you say when they visit you? For you taught them lessons in the beginning against yourself. Shall not pains of agony seize you, like a woman who gives birth? But if you say in your heart, "Why have these things happened to me?" Because of the multitude of your wrongdoings, your backside was uncovered so your heels might be exposed.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Sixth Hour of Bright Saturday

The Prophecies

Isaias 50:10-51:8

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. Behold, all of you kindle a fire and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.

"Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord. Look to the solid rock which you hewed, and to the hole of the pit which you dug. Look to Abraham our father and to Sarah who bore you, for he was first, and I called and blessed

him, and loved and multiplied him. And now I will comfort you, O Zion, and I comforted all her desert places; and I shall make her desert places like the Garden of the Lord. In it they shall find gladness and exceeding joy, and thanksgiving and the voice of praise. Listen to Me, listen, O My people and kings, give ear to Me, for law shall proceed from Me, and My judgment as the light of the Gentiles. My righteousness draws near quickly, and My salvation will go forth as light, and the Gentiles will hope in My arm, and the coastlands shall wait for Me and hope in My arm. Lift up your eyes to heaven, and look to the

earth below, for heaven is solid as smoke, and the earth will grow old like a garment; and the inhabitants of the earth shall die, as do these things. But My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness will not fail. Listen to Me, My people who know judgment, in whose heart is My law. Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be

overcome by their contempt. For as a garment will be devoured by time, and as wool will be devoured by a moth, so shall they be devoured. But My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Ninth Hour of Bright Saturday

The Prophecies

Isaias 45:15-20

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.’ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

For thus says the Lord, who made heaven—this is the God who formed the earth and made it. He established it, and did not make it in vain, but formed it to be inhabited—“I Am,

and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, nor in a dark place of the earth. I did not say to the seed of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in vain.’ I Am, I am the Lord who speaks righteousness and declares the truth. Assemble yourselves and come. Take counsel together, you who are saved from among the nations. Those who set up the wood of their carved image have no knowledge, and pray to gods who do not save.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Jeremiah 38:31-34

From the book of Jeremiah the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Behold, days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I made with their

fathers in the day I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them,” says the Lord. “For this is the

covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” says the Lord. “I will surely put My laws into their mind and write them on their hearts. I will be as God to them, and they shall be as My people. Each shall not teach his neighbor and each his

brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoings, and I will no longer remember their sins.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Eleventh Hour of Bright Saturday (Distribution)

My God, My God

O God, my God, attend to me;
why have You forsaken me?
The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation.

O my God, I will cry out by day, and You will not hear,
and by night, yet it is not foolish of me. (Psalm 21:2, 3)

But I am a worm, and not a man;
a reproach of men, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they say with their lips and shake their heads,

“He trusted in the Lord. Let Him rescue him;
let Him save him, if He wanted him.” (Psalm 21:7, 8, 9)

Do not leave me when trouble is near,
for there is no one to help.

Many young bulls surround me;
fat bulls surround me.

They open their mouths at me,
like a raging and roaring lion. (Psalm 21:12, 13, 14)

For a pack of dogs surround me,
and an assembly of evil doers enclose me.
They have pierced my hands and my feet.

They counted all my bones;
they look and stare at me.

They divided my garments among themselves,
and they cast lots for my clothing.

But You, O Lord, do not remove Your help;
attend to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my only one from the power of the dog.
Save me from the mouth of the lion,
and my lowliness from the horns of unicorns. (Psalm 21:17-22)

He lifts me high on a rock.
And now, behold, He lifted my head above my enemies; (Psalm 26:5d, 6a)

Those who repay me evil for good
slandered me because I pursue righteousness.
And they cast me off, [I,] the beloved, like a horrid corpse[.
And they put nails in My flesh.]

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me.

Come to my help,
O Lord of my salvation. (Psalm 37:21-23)

I waited for someone to sympathize with me, but there was none,
and for comforters, but I did not find one.

And they gave me gall for my food,
and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let their table be a snare before them,
a retribution and a stumbling-block.

Let their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
and bend their backs continually.

Pour out Your wrath upon them,
and let the fury of Your wrath overtake them.

Let their dwelling place be laid waste,
and let no one live in their tents.

For they persecute the one whom You struck, (Psalm 68:21b-27a)

You will guide me and sustain me
for Your Name's sake.

You will bring me out from this snare,
which they have hidden for me,
for You are my protector, O Lord.

I will entrust my spirit into Your hands. (Psalm 30:4b-6a)

They add to the pain of My wounds.

Add iniquity to their iniquity,
and let them not enter into Your righteousness.

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,
and not be enrolled among the righteous.

I am poor and in pain,
And the salvation of Your presence, O god, supports me. (Psalm 68:27b-30)

They laid me in the deepest pit,
in dark places and in the shadow of death.

Your wrath was fixed upon me,
and You brought all Your waves upon me. (Psalm 87:7, 8)

He goes out, and speaks of it.

My enemies whisper together against me;
they devise evils against me.

They spread a false report against me.
“Surely since He is asleep, He will not rise up again?” (Psalm 40:7c-9)

I lay down and slept;
I woke, for the Lord will support me. (Psalm 3:6)

“What profit is there in my blood,
by my going down to corruption?
Will the dust confess You,
or will it declare Your truth? (Psalm 29:10)

And He brought me up out of the pit of misery
and from the miry clay. (Psalm 39:3ab)

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;
the Lord became my helper.

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
You have torn off my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness. (Psalm 29:11, 12)

For there is wrath in His anger,
but life is His will;
in the evening weeping may pitch its tent,
but joy comes with the morning. (Psalm 29:6)

Then was our mouth filled with joy,
and our tongue with rejoicing.
Then they will say among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things with us,
and we became glad.

Return, O Lord, our captivity
like torrents in the South. (Psalm 125:2-4)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
Now and at all times, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

PASCHALTIDE

The Office of Kneeling (or Worship) on the Eve of Monday after Pentecost

The Prophecies of the First Kneeling

Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me. So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the fire, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near me, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders. Then you said, ‘Surely the Lord our God showed us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We saw this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. Now therefore, let us not die, because this

great fire will destroy us; and if we continue to hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. For who of flesh heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear whatever the Lord our God may say, and tell us whatever the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.’

“Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, ‘I heard the voice of this people, whatever words they spoke to you. They are right in whatever they said. Would they had such a heart in them so as to fear Me and guard My commandments all the

time, that it might be well with them and their sons forever. Go and say to them, “Return to your houses.” But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments you are to teach them, so they may do them in the land I give them as an inheritance.’ Therefore you shall be careful to do in the manner the Lord your God commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in every way the Lord your God commanded you, that He may give you rest, and it be well with you, and you prolong your days in the land you are to inherit.

“Now these are the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded to teach you, that you may do them in the land you are crossing over to inherit, and may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His ordinances and commandments I command you today, you and your sons and the sons of your sons, all the days of your life, so your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you—‘to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Prophecies of the Second Kneeling

Deuteronomy 6:17-25

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and the ordinances He commanded you. So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and you may go in and inherit the good land the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase out all your enemies from before your face, as He said.

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are the testimonies, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded you?’ you shall say to

your son, ‘We were servants of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; and the Lord set great and evil signs affecting Egypt, Pharaoh, and his house before us. Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in to give us this land He swore to give our fathers. So the Lord commanded us to do all these ordinances, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, and we may live as today. Then we shall have mercy, if we are careful to do all these

commandments before the Lord our God, as the Lord commanded us.'

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Prophecies of the Third Kneeling

Deuteronomy 16:1-18

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Observe the month of new corn, and keep Pascha to the Lord your God, for in the month of new corn He brought you out of Egypt by night. Therefore you shall sacrifice Pascha to the Lord your God from the sheep and oxen, in the place the Lord chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your borders for seven days, nor shall any of the meat you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain until morning. You may not sacrifice Pascha within any of your cities the Lord your God gives you; but at the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there, there you shall sacrifice Pascha at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt. You shall roast and eat it in the place the Lord your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your houses. Six days you shall eat unleav-

ened bread, and on the seventh and final day, there shall be a feast to the Lord your God. You shall do no work on it except what must be done for life.

"You shall count seven complete weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God, and according to your ability you may offer whatever you wish, as the Lord your God blessed you. You shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and daughter, your male servant and female servant, the Levite who is within your cities, the resident alien and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. And you shall remember you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these commandments.

"You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and winepress. You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and daughter, your male servant and

female servant, the Levite, the resident alien, the fatherless and the widow who are within your cities. Seven days you shall keep a feast to the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses for Himself, and if the Lord your God should bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, you will be rejoicing. Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place the Lord chooses; at the Feast of Unleavened

Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord your God empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you.

“You shall appoint judges and teachers in all the cities the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

NEEDS

Consecrations and Ordinations

Monks

The Prophecies

Genesis 12:1-7

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed." Then Abram departed as the Lord said to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his

brother's son and all their possessions and every soul they acquired in Haran, and they departed for the land of Canaan. Thus they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I will give this land." And there Abram built an altar to the Lord, who appeared to him.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Deuteronomy 8:1-9

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt

harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his

son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the

mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Sirach 2:1-9

From the book of Wisdom of Jesus, the son of Sirach. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord,

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Cornerstone

The Prophecies

Genesis 28:1-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Mesopotamia, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. May God bless you, and increase and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of nations; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your seed with you, that you may inherit the land of your sojourning, which God gave to Abraham." So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Mesopotamia, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Mesopotamia to take himself a wife from there, and as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," and Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Mesopotamia. Also, Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the

stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety

to my father's house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God's house to me,

and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Church

The Prophecies

Genesis 1:1-2:3

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its

places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night. Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth." It was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them

in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth creatures having life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven's firmament." It was so. Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth." So evening and morning were the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind." It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the

cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth." So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them. Then God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life." It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Genesis 28:10-22

From the book of Genesis of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not

leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If the Lord God will be with me, and keep me in this way I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father's house, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone I set as a pillar shall be God's house to me, and of all You give me I will surely give a tithe to You."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 25:1-26:30

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, that they take first fruits from everyone who gives it willingly from the heart. Thus you shall take My first fruits. This is the offering you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet cloth, fine spun linen; and female goats' hair, ram skins dyed red and skins

dyed blue, and incorruptible wood; oil for the light, and incense for anointing oil and for the composition of incense; sardius stones, and stones for the carved work of the breastplate and the full-length robe. Also, you shall make Me a sanctuary, and I will appear among you. According to all I show you, that is, the pattern of the

tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, so you shall make it.

“Thus you shall make the ark of testimony from incorruptible wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. You shall overlay it with pure gold; inside and out you shall overlay it and shall make on it a wreath of gold all around. You shall cast four golden rings for it and put them on its four corners; two rings on one side and two rings on the other. You shall make poles of incorruptible wood and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall remain fixed in the rings of the ark. Then you shall put into the ark the testimonies I will give you.

“You shall also make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. Then you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark

you shall put the testimonies I will give you. There I will make Myself known to you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of testimony, about everything I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

“You shall also make a golden table of pure gold; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. You shall make for it golden wreaths twisted all around, and also a crown of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a twisted wreath of gold for the crown all around. You shall make four golden rings for it and put the rings on the four corners of its four legs under the crown. The rings shall be bearings for the poles, so they may bear the table with them. And you shall make the poles of incorruptible wood and overlay them with pure gold, that the table may be carried with them. You shall make its dishes, censers, bowls, and cups of pure gold, that you may offer drink offerings with them; and you shall set the bread on the table before Me continually.

“You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold which shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, branches, and bowls, and its stem and corolla shall be of one piece. Six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side and three branches out of the other. Three bowls shall be made like almonds on each branch, with its

ornamental knobs and lilies—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almonds, and each with its ornamental knob and lilies. There shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make its seven lamps, and you will lay the lamps upon them. From this one presence they will shine outward. You shall make its funnels and dishes of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. And see to it you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

“Now you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen, with blue, purple, and scarlet fabric, and you shall weave them with artistic designs of cherubim. The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits and the width of each curtain four cubits. Each curtain shall have the same measurements. Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. You shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the curtain of the second set.

Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain at the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another. You shall make fifty clasps of gold and couple the curtains together with the clasps, that it may be one tabernacle.

“You shall also make curtains of goats’ hair skins to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven such curtains. The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements. You shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the outermost curtain in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. You shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. The remaining remnant of the tent’s curtains, that is, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. A cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side of the remaining length of the tent’s curtains shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it. You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and blue skins as coverings above that.

“You shall make the tabernacle posts out of incorruptible wood. Ten

cubits shall be the length of each post, and a cubit and a half its width. Two joints shall be made in each post for binding one to another. Thus you shall do for all the posts of the tabernacle. Thus you shall make the posts for the tabernacle, twenty for the north side. You shall make forty bases of silver for the twenty posts: two bases for each of the two joints of the posts. For the second side of the tabernacle, the south side, there shall be twenty posts, and their forty bases of silver: two bases for each of the posts' two joints. For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six posts. You shall also make two posts for the two back corners of the tabernacle. They shall be coupled together at the bottom and at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both

of them. They shall be equal. So there shall be eight posts with their sixteen bases of silver, two bases for both sides of each post.

“You shall make bars of incorruptible wood: five for the posts on one side of the tabernacle, five bars for the posts on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the posts of the side of the tabernacle toward the sea. The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the posts from end to end. You shall overlay the posts with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold. Then you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern shown you on the mountain.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 30:17-31:13

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. You shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil throughout your generations. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any like it according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.’ ”

And the Lord said to Moses, “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and sweet galbanum, and pure frankincense; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these perfumed incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, mixed, pure, and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine and put some of it before the testimonies in the tabernacle of testimony, where I will make Myself known to you. It shall be a most holy incense to you. You shall not make any for yourselves according to this composition. It shall

be to you a holy thing for the Lord. Whoever makes any like it to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.”

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the divine Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and in every manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in every manner of workmanship. Indeed I have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put understanding in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, so they may make all I commanded you: the tabernacle of testimony, the ark of the testimony and the mercy seat on it, and all the utensils of the tabernacle—the altars and the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, and the laver and its base—the liturgical garments for Aaron and the garments of his sons, to minister to Me as priests, and the anointing oil and the compound incense for the holy place. According to all I have commanded you they shall do.”

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “You shall direct the children of Israel, saying, ‘See to it that you keep My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’ ”

Exodus 39:23-40:27

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses looked over all the work, and it was done in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. They did it in this way, and Moses blessed them.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "On the first day of the first month, the new moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put in it the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and lay out its offering, and bring in the lampstand and install its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark, and put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle of testimony. Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offerings before the door of the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put a cover over the tabernacle and consecrate everything pertaining to it. You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; and you shall consecrate it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.

"Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of testimony and wash them with water. You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint and

consecrate him that he may minister to Me as priest. You shall also bring his sons and put garments on them. You shall anoint them as you anointed their father, so they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." Thus Moses did; according to all the Lord commanded him, so he did.

Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. So Moses set up the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Then he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the poles under the ark. He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses. He put the table in the tabernacle of testimony, on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, outside the veil of the tabernacle. He also set the bread of the offertory upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in

the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it,

as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 40:21-32

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He also set the bread of the offering upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's glory. But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. But if the cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Numbers 4:1-16

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "Take a sum total of the sons of Kohath from among the children of Levi, by their tribes and the houses of their families, from twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter liturgical service to do all the works in the tabernacle of testimony. These are

the works, the most holy things, of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of testimony: When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall enter, and take down the overshadowing veil and cover the ark of the testimony with it. Then they shall put on it a blue leather covering; and on top of this they shall spread an

entirely blue cloth, and then insert the carrying-poles. On the table of presentation they shall spread a cloth all of purple and put on it the dishes, the censers, the cups, and the bowls for pouring the drink-offerings; and the perpetual loaves shall be on it. They shall spread over it a scarlet cloth; and they shall cover it with a blue leather covering and then insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its funnels, and all its oil vessels with which they minister liturgically. Then they shall put it with all its vessels in a covering of blue leather, and put it on a carrying-pole. Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth; and they shall cover it with a covering of blue leather and then insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall take all the vessels for liturgical service with which they minister liturgically in the holy things, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with blue leather covering, and put them on carrying-poles. Also they shall put the covering on the altar and spread a cloth entirely of

purple over it. They shall put on it all its vessels with which they minister liturgically there—the fire pans, the forks, the bowls, the cover, and all the vessels of the altar—and they shall spread on it a covering of blue leather and insert its carrying-poles. Then they shall spread on it a blue leather cover, and insert its carrying-poles. After this, they shall take a purple cloth to cover the laver and its base, and put them into a blue leather cover, and then put them on carrying-poles. Then after Aaron and his sons finish covering the holy things and all the holy vessels, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall enter to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of testimony the sons of Kohath are to carry: (the overseer is Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest) the oil for the light, the incense compound, the daily grain offering, the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle, and whatever is in it, in the holy place with all its works.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Numbers 4:17-33

From the book of Numbers of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “Do not destroy the tribe of the Kohathite families from among the Levites; but do this in regard to them, so they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons

shall go in and appoint each of them according to his transport duty. But they shall not go in unexpectedly to watch the holy things, lest they die.”

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Also take a census of the sons of Gershon, by their fathers’

houses according to their tribes. From twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall take a census of them, all who enter to minister liturgically, to do its works in the tabernacle of testimony. This is the liturgical service of the tribe of the Gershonites, in serving liturgically and in carrying: They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of testimony with its covering, the covering of blue leather over it, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of testimony, the curtains of the court, which are around the tabernacle of testimony, and all the abundance of liturgical vessels, with which they minister liturgically: so shall they do. Aaron and his sons shall assign all the liturgical service of the sons of the Gershonites, according to all their liturgical service and all the things to be carried by them. You shall assign them by name with all the matters to be carried by them. This is the liturgical service of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of testimony, and their duties shall be under the

authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

“As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their tribes and their fathers’ houses. From twenty-five years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the liturgical service to do the work of the tabernacle of testimony. These things to be carried by them are their duties relative to all their works in the tabernacle of testimony: the capitals of the tabernacle, and its bars, pillars, bases, and the screen. They shall also carry the bases, the pillars, and the screen of the door of the tabernacle, and the pillars around the court with their bases, and the pillars of the screen of the courtyard gate, and their bases, pegs, and cords, with all their vessels and liturgical things; and you shall assign them by name all the vessels they are responsible to carry. This is the liturgical service of the tribe of the sons of Merari, in all their works for the tabernacle of testimony, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Joshua 3:7-4:9

From the book of Joshua the son of Nun, the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry

the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God.

Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.”

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry

ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight.’” So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, “Draw near in front of me in the Lord’s presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ then you will declare to your son, saying, ‘The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over’; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever.”

So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place

walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant

of the Lord. They are there to this day.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

2 Kingdoms 6:1-20 or 2 Samuel 6:1-20

From the second book of Kingdoms of Samuel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again David gathered all the young men of Israel, about seventy thousand. And David arose and went, he and all the people with him, even with the rulers of Judah, on an expedition to bring back from there the ark of God, on which they called upon the Name of the Lord of Hosts who dwells between the cherubim. So they set the ark of God on a new wagon and brought it from the house of Abinadab on the hill. And Uzzah and his brothers, the sons of Abinadab, drove the wagon with the ark, and his brothers went before the ark. Then David and all the sons of Israel with strength played music before the Lord on well-tuned instruments, with songs, harps, lyres, flutes, and with drums and cymbals.

And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah placed his hand on the ark of God to hold it steady when the oxen shook it out of its place. The Lord was angered against Uzzah, and there God struck him. And before God, he died there next to the ark of the Lord. And David became angry because the Lord inflicted a fatal wound against Uzzah, and he called that place Wound of Uzzah to this day. And on that day, fearing the Lord, David said,

"In what possible way can the ark of the Lord come with me?" So David would not bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord to the City of David. Instead David directed it into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. For three months, the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. And the Lord blessed all the house of Obed-Edom and everything he had.

Now it was reported to King David, saying, "The Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all his possessions because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And there were with those bearing the ark of the Lord seven groups of singers, and a calf and a lamb for sacrifice. David played on well-tuned instruments before the Lord, and David put on a special garment. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

Now as the ark came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David dancing and playing instruments before the Lord, and she

despised him in her heart. They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle David built for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole army of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and to the men and women, to everyone, a loaf of bread,

a piece of meat, and a fried cake. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David. She blessed him and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, making himself a shameful exhibition before the eyes of his handmaidens as he uncovered himself, revealing himself as does a base dancer."

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Chronicles 16:2-42 or 1 Chronicles 15:2-16:43

From the first book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place which he prepared for it. Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites: of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred twenty of his brethren; of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred fifty of his brethren; of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred thirty of his brethren; of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren; of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren; of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred twelve of his brethren.

And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You, the heads of the families of the Levites, sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, so you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I prepared for it. Because you were not prepared the first time, because we did not strive for judgment, God divided us within ourselves." So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. As Moses had commanded, in accordance with the written word of the Lord, the sons of the Levites took the ark of God upon their shoulders with bearing-poles.

Then David said to the chief of the Levites, "Establish your brethren to be the singers with musical

instruments—stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals—to sing invitingly in a voice of joyfulness unto His heaven.” So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers; the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze; Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth; Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith; Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the music because he was skillful; Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark; Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

With joy David and the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-Edom. And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, they offered seven bulls and seven rams.

David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. Thus all of Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting and the sound of the horn, with trumpets and cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps. And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked out through a window and saw King David dancing and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

So they brought in the ark of God and set it in the midst of the tent David had pitched for it. They offered up whole burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. And David finished offering the whole burnt offerings and peace offerings, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord. And he divided one loaf of baked bread to every man and woman of Israel.

And he appointed Levites to minister before the presence of the ark of the Lord, to exclaim and give thanks and to praise the Lord God of Israel: Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom; Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests, continually

before the ark of the covenant of
God with trumpets.

Then David by the hand of Asaph
and his brethren gave orders to praise
the Lord:

Give praise to the Lord Himself!
Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the
peoples.

Sing songs to Him, sing praises to
Him;

Tell of all His wondrous works
which the Lord has done.

Praise His holy name;

The heart that seeks to do His
pleasure shall rejoice.

Seek the Lord and be strong;

On account of all things, seek His
face.

Remember His remarkable works
which He has done,

His wonders and the judgments of
His mouth,

O seed of Israel His servant,

You children of Jacob, His chosen
ones.

He is the Lord our Lord;

His judgments are over all the
earth.

Let us remember His covenant
unto the ages,

The word He commands for a
thousand generations—

The covenant He made with
Abraham

And His oath to Isaac;

He confirmed it to Jacob for an
ordinance,

To Israel for an eternal covenant,

Saying, “To you I will give the
land of Canaan

As the allotment of your inher-
itance.”

When they were few in number,

When they were small in stature
and dwelt as sojourners in it,

And when they went from nation
to nation

And from one kingdom to another
people,

He allowed no man to rule over
them,

And He reproved kings for their
sakes,

Saying, “Do not touch My anoint-
ed ones,

And bring no harm to My proph-
ets.”

Sing to the Lord, all the earth;

Proclaim His salvation from day
to day.

For the Lord is great and greatly
to be praised;

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the Gentiles are
idols,

But our God made the heavens.

Glory and praise are before Him;

Strength and rejoicing are in His
place.

Give to the Lord, O families of
the peoples,

Give to the Lord glory and
strength.

Give to the Lord the glory due His
name;

Take gifts and offer them before
His presence.

Oh, worship the Lord in His holy courts!

Let all the earth fear because of His presence;

Let the earth be set upright

And not be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

And let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

Let the sea roar and all its fullness,

And the trees of the forest and all that is in them.

For the trees of the forest shall rejoice before the Lord,

For He is coming to judge the earth.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His mercy endures forever.

And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation;

And deliver us from the Gentiles

To praise Your holy name,

And boast in Your praises."

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

From ages unto the ages.

All the people said, "Amen." And they praised the Lord.

And they left Asaph and his brothers there, before the ark of the

covenant of the Lord, to minister continually from day to day according to the service of each day. And Obed-Edom and his brothers were sixty-eight; Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah were gatekeepers; Zadok the priest and the brethren of the priests stood before the tabernacle of the Lord in the high place in Gibeon, to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar of whole burnt offering every morning and evening; and to do according to all things written in the Law of the Lord that He commanded the sons of Israel by the hand of Moses the servant of God. And with him were Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest chosen out by name to give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy is forever; and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

1 Chronicles 28:2-29:22

From the first book of Chronicle. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people. It was in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord and a footstool of our God. I made preparations to

build it. But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.' Yet the Lord God of Israel chose me from out of the entire house of my father to be

king over Israel unto the age. And in Judah, he chose the royal palace; and of the house of Judah, he chose the house of my father; and of the sons of my father, He desired me to become king over all Israel. And of all my sons, for the Lord gave me many, He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

“And He said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts, for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. And if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, I will establish his kingdom forever, as it is this day.’ And now before the whole assembly of the Lord and in the hearing of our God, I charge you to keep and seek all the commandments of the Lord our God, that you may inherit the good land and leave this for your sons to inherit after you forever.

“And now, my son Solomon, know the God of your fathers, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing soul; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be strong and do it.”

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the temple, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner storehouses, and the house of

the mercy seat; and the plans that he had in his mind concerning the courts of the house of the Lord, all the chambers round about the storehouses of the house of the Lord, and the storehouses for the dedicated things; also for the quarters for the daily priests and the Levites for all the work of the service of the house of the Lord; and for the storehouses for the serving articles used to worship in the house of the Lord. And the measure of their weight both in gold and in silver, he gave to him the weight of the lamps and of the lamp stands. He gave to him in like manner the weight for the tables of the showbread, for each table in gold and likewise in silver; also for the forks, the basins, the pitchers of gold, and the weight of the gold and the silver bowls for each weight; and the weight of the altar for burning incense made of refined gold he showed to him, and the plans for the chariot of the cherubim that spread out their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the Lord. All these things in writing from the hand of the Lord David gave to Solomon, so that he would succeed in understanding how to follow the plan.

And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it. Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord. And

take notice of the division of the priests and Levites for all the daily service of the house of the Lord. With them shall be the men for every workmanship, every one of ready skill in every art. And at your command are the chief men and all the people.”

Furthermore, King David said to the entire assembly, “My one son Solomon, whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is a great work, for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God. According to all means possible I prepared gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx stones, costly and precious stones of various colors, and much marble for the house of my God. And because I took pleasure in the house of my God, I gave to the house of my God gold and silver over and above what I procured for myself; more than all I prepared for my house of my God, over and above all I prepared for my consecrated house. Three thousand talents of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver to be overlaid in these the walls of the sanctuary by the hands of craftsmen. And who this day zealously dedicates his hands for the Lord?”

Then the heads of the families, the princes of the sons of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, offered willingly. They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents of gold and ten thousand darics of gold, ten

thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced as a result of their willingness, for they offered willingly to the Lord with their whole heart. King David rejoiced greatly.

With this, King David blessed the Lord before all the assembly, saying, “Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel, our Father, unto the ages of ages. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the might. You are master over all that is in heaven and on the earth. Every king and nation is thrown into confusion before You. From the first, You are the wealth and the glory who reigns over all, as the Lord and dominion of all. In Your hand is power and authority, and you are almighty with Your hand to increase and establish all things. And now, Lord, we give thanks to You, and we praise Your glorious name.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we are able to be zealous in offering to You? For all things are Yours, and of Your own we give to You. For we are strangers before You and sojourners, as were all our fathers. Our days upon the earth are as a shadow, and there are none that remain. O Lord our God, as for all this abundance which I have prepared

that a house should be built to Your holy name, it is of Your hand and all is Yours. I know also, O Lord, that You search the heart and You love righteousness. As for me, in the sincerity of my heart I willingly offer all these things. And now I see Your people who brought themselves here joyfully to offer willingly to You. O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep under guard these things in the thoughts of the heart of Your people forever, and lead their heart toward You. And give my son Solomon a fitting heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your ordinances and bring to an end the final preparation of Your house.”

Then David said to all the congregation, “Now bless the Lord your God.” And everyone in the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down before the Lord and the king.

The next day after the first day, David sacrificed and offered up whole burnt offerings to the Lord—even a thousand calves, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs—along with their drink offerings, and an abundance of sacrifices for all Israel. So they ate and drank before the Lord with great gladness on that day. And they made Solomon the son of David king a second time and anointed him king before the Lord, and Zadok to the priesthood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

2 Chronicles 3:1-6:11

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign. This is the foundation Solomon laid for building the house of God. It was sixty cubits long (according to the former measure) and twenty cubits wide. The vestibule in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and one hundred twenty

cubits high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. He paneled the larger room with cypress and overlaid it with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chain work on it. He decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim. He also overlaid the house—the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors—with gold and carved cherubim on the walls. And he made the most holy place. Its length corresponded to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and it was twenty cubits wide. He overlaid it as far as the cherubim with six hundred

talents of fine gold. The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. He overlaid the upper room with gold.

In the most holy place he made two wooden cherubim and overlaid them with gold. The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length. One wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub; one wing of the other cherub was five cubits as well, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub. The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet and faced inward. He made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it.

In front of the house he made two pillars thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each was five cubits. He made wreaths of chain work, as in the inner sanctuary, and put them on top of the pillars. And he made one hundred pomegranates and put them on the wreaths of chain work. Then he set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand and the other on the left. He called the one on the right hand Upholding, and he called the one on the left Strength.

He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high. And he made the sea of cast bronze, ten cubits in diameter.

It was completely round. It was five cubits high and thirty cubits around. Under it were the likenesses of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the sea. The oxen were cast in two rows when it was cast. It stood on twelve oxen. Three looked toward the north, three looked toward the west, three looked toward the south, and three looked toward the east. The sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward. It was a handbreadth thick and its brim was like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths. And he finished it.

He also made ten basins, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash what they offered for the burnt offering. The sea, however, was for the priests to wash in. He made ten gold lampstands according to their design and set them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. And he made one hundred golden bowls.

He made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the door panels with bronze. He set the sea on the right side toward the east. Then Hiram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls for the altar and all its utensils. So Hiram finished the work he was to do for King Solomon for the house of God, the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals on top of

the two pillars, the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; four hundred pomegranates for the two networks—two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals on the pillars. He made carts and put basins on the carts, and one sea with twelve oxen under it, and tripods and buckets and basins and forks and all the other utensils. Hiram his master craftsman made them of pure bronze for King Solomon for the house of the Lord. The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of Jordan between Succoth and Zeredah. And Solomon had all these articles made in such great quantity that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God, the golden altar and the tables for the showbread, the lamp stands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary, with the tongs and the lamps and the cups and the censers of pure gold. The door of the sanctuary, the inner door to the most holy place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple were gold.

So all the work that Solomon did for the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in everything his father David had dedicated, the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the families of the sons of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast in the seventh month. All the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites carried it. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel assembled with him in fear before the ark, sacrificing more sheep and oxen than could be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. And the poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses put there at Horeb when the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel when they came out of Egypt.

And when the priests came from the holy place (for all the priests who

were present were sanctified before being separated into divisions), and the Levites and the singers of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, and with them were one hundred twenty priests sounding with trumpets; and the trumpeters and singers were as one voice in sounding the trumpet and singing and in praising and thanking the Lord. And when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, they praised the Lord, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His mercy endures forever.”

The house was filled with a cloud of the Lord’s glory, ¹⁴so the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Then Solomon said:

“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

But I built a house to your name, a house holy to You,

And prepared for You a place to dwell forever.”

Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel,

while all the assembly of Israel was standing. And he said, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, ‘Since the day I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel; yet I chose Jerusalem so that My name may be there, and I chose David to be over My people Israel.’

“Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord God of Israel; but the Lord said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well by having it in your heart, but you shall not build the house, for your son who will come from your body, he shall build the house for My name.’ So the Lord fulfilled the word He spoke, and I took my father David’s place and sat on the throne of Israel as the Lord said, and I built the house for the name of the Lord God of Israel. And there I put the ark containing the covenant which the Lord made with Israel.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

3 Kingdoms 8:20-60 or Kings 8:22-61

From the third book of Kingdoms. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out

his hands toward heaven; and he said, “O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on

earth below, who keep Your covenant and Your mercy with Your servant who walks before You with all his heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as today. Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your people guard and keep their ways to walk before Me, as you walked before Me.’ So now, O Lord God of Israel, let the word be confirmed You spoke to Your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell with men on earth? If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place day and night. You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.

“When anyone sins against his neighbor, or if he takes up an oath that he should swear, and comes and redeems himself before Your altar in

this temple, You will hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your people Israel; condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving to him according to his righteousness.

“When Your people Israel are defeated before their enemies because they sinned against You, and when they turn back to You, and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this house, then You will hear in heaven and be propitious to the sins of Your people Israel; and You will bring them back to the land You gave their fathers.

“When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sins, whenever they humble themselves—You will hear from heaven, and be propitious to the sins of Your servant and Your people Israel; that You may teach them the good way in which to walk, and send rain on the land You gave Your people as an inheritance.

“When there is famine in the land; when there is death; when there is burning, locusts, or blight; when their enemy besieges them in one of their cities; whatever plague or affliction there is; whatever prayer and supplication shall be offered by any man, as each one might know the plague of his heart, and will spread out his hands toward this house—You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place, and be propitious and act; and

You will give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know; for You alone know the hearts of all the children of men. So they will fear You all the days they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

“Even the foreigner who is not of Your people, when he comes and prays in this temple, You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You. This so all people will know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel. They will know Your name is called upon in this house I built.

“When Your people go out to battle against their enemies wherever You send them, and when they pray in the name of the Lord toward the city You chose, and the temple I built for Your name—then You will hear their prayer and supplication in heaven. You will make a righteous judgment for them. When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy; and they are taken captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; yet when they turn their hearts in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong,’ and they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land You gave to their

fathers, the city You chose, and the temple I built for Your name—then You will hear in heaven from Your dwelling place; and You will be propitious in their unrighteousness in which they sinned against You, and in all their transgressions by which they broke faith with You; and You will grant them compassion before those who took them captive, and they will have compassion on them; for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of the land of Egypt, out of the midst of the iron furnace.

“Let Your eyes and Your ears be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to hear them about everything, whenever they call to You. For You, O Lord and Master, separated them from all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You said by Your servant Moses when You brought our fathers out of Egypt.”

Then Solomon said concerning the house he had finished building:

“The Lord made known the sun in heaven;

He spoke to those dwelling in darkness,

‘Build My house, a house of splendor for yourself,

To dwell in newness.’”

Behold, is this not written in the book of the ode?

When Solomon finished praying all his prayer and supplication to the Lord, he rose up from before the altar

of the Lord, after kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel with a loud voice and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who gave rest to His people Israel, just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good words He spoke through His servant Moses.

“May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep all

His commandments and His statutes that He commanded our fathers. May these words with which I have made supplication before the Lord stand near the Lord our God day and night, to maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel as each day may require; that all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God, and there is no other. Let your heart therefore be perfect to the Lord our God, that you walk piously in His statutes, and keep His commandments, as today.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

3 Kingdoms 8:53-60

From the third book of Kingdoms. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

When Solomon finished praying all his prayer and supplication to the Lord, he rose up from before the altar of the Lord, after kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel with a loud voice and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who gave rest to His people Israel, just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good words He spoke through His servant Moses.

“May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself,

to walk in all His ways and to keep all His commandments and His statutes that He commanded our fathers. May these words with which I have made supplication before the Lord stand near the Lord our God day and night, to maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel as each day may require; that all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God, and there is no other. Let your heart therefore be perfect to the Lord our God, that you walk piously in His statutes, and keep His commandments, as today.”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

2 Chronicles 7:1-6

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord at that time because the glory of the Lord had filled the house. When all the sons of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the house, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying:

“For He is good,
For His mercy endures forever.”

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord. Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand calves and one hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. And the priests stood at their posts along with the Levites and their instruments for the music of the Lord, which King David had made to praise the Lord, saying, “For His mercy endures forever,” with the hymns of David. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

2 Chronicles 7:7-18

From the second book of Chronicles. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.

Solomon consecrated the middle of the court of the house of the Lord. He offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar Solomon made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat. At that time Solomon kept the feast for seven days, and all Israel kept it with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt. And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar for seven days. On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, he sent the people away to their habitations, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the Lord had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

So Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house, and Solomon successfully accomplished everything that came into his heart to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will be merciful to their sins and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears will hear the prayer of this place; for now I have

chosen and sanctified this house, so that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there all the day. If you shall walk before Me as your father David and do everything I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and

My judgments; then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'A man ruling in Israel shall not be removed from you.'

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Isaias 59:20-60:22

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who delivers shall come for Zion's sake, and He shall turn back ungodliness from Jacob. "This shall be My covenant with them," says the Lord. "My Spirit who is upon you, and My words I caused to be in your mouth shall not fail from the mouth of your seed; for the Lord has spoken it, from now and forever.

"Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course and turn to you. Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come

bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense and proclaim the good news of the Lord's salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these who fly like clouds and like doves with young? The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord's name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. Foreigners shall build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to

glorify My holy place. The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you, therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you and the God of Israel who delivers you. Instead of bronze, I will bring you gold, and instead of iron, I will bring you silver, and instead of wood, I will bring you bronze, and instead of stones, iron. I will establish your rulers in peace and your bishops in righteousness. Unrighteousness shall no longer be heard in your land, neither destruc-

tion nor distress within your boundaries, but your walls shall be called Salvation, and your gates Sculptured Work. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor shall the rising of the moon shine on you at night, but the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and God, your glory. For your sun shall no longer set, nor shall your moon be eclipsed, for the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be fulfilled. Also your people shall all be righteous, and they shall inherit the land forever, guarding what they planted, the works of their hands, for glory. The few in number shall become thousands, and the lesser shall become a great nation. I the Lord will gather them together at the appointed time.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 1:3-27

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon me.

I looked, and behold, a sweeping wind came from the north, and a great cloud was in it, with a surrounding brightness and fire flashing forth from it. In its midst was something like the appearance of amber in the middle of the fire, and a brightness in it. In the midst, there was as it were the likeness of four living creatures. This was their appearance, and the

likeness of a man upon them. Each had four faces, and each had four wings. Their legs were straight, and their feet were winged. There were sparks like gleaming brass, and their wings were light. The hand of a man was underneath their wings on their four sides. The faces of those four did not turn as they proceeded, and they went with each face opposite the other. This was the likeness of their faces: the face of a man, the face of a lion on the right side of the foursome, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle. Their wings were

spread out above them. Each had two wings joined together, and two wings covered up their bodies. Each went straight forward wherever the spirit was going, and did not turn back. In the midst of the living creatures there was an appearance as of burning coals of fire, as an appearance of lamps turning among the living creatures. There was the brightness of fire, and out of the fire lightning came forth.

I looked and behold, there was one wheel on the earth next to each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels was like the appearance of beryl, and each of the four had one likeness; and their work was as it were a wheel within a wheel. They went on their four sides, and did not turn when they went. Neither did their backs turn, and they were high. I saw them, and the backs of all four were full of eyes all around. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the cloud happened to be, there was the spirit ready to go. The living creatures went, and the wheels went with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels. When the living creatures went, the wheels went; when the living creatures came to a stop, the wheels stopped; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels

were lifted up with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels.

The likeness above the heads of the living creatures was like a firmament, like the appearance of crystal, spread out over their wings above. Their wings were outspread underneath the firmament, clapping their wings one to the other, two wings joined to each, and two wings covering up their bodies. I heard the sound of their wings when they went, like the sound of much water; and when they stood still, their wings rested.

Then behold, a voice came from above the firmament, above their head. There was as it were the appearance of a sapphire stone, and the likeness of a throne upon it. Upon the likeness of the throne there was as it were the appearance of a man above. Then I saw as it were the outward appearance of amber from the appearance of the waist and upward. From the appearance of the waist and downward I saw as it were the appearance of fire with brightness round about. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the condition of the surrounding brightness.

This was the vision of the likeness of the Lord's glory. I saw it, and I fell down on my face, and heard the voice of One speaking.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 40:1-19

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Again in the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, in the first month, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was captured, on the very same day, the hand of the Lord was upon me. He took me in a vision of God into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain. On it, but opposite from me, was something like the structure of a city. He took me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of gleaming bronze. He had a builder's cord and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood at the gate. Then the man said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this? Look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your heart on everything I show you; for you were brought here that I might show them to you. For you shall reveal to the house of Israel everything you see."

Now there was a wall around the entire outside of the house. In the man's hand was a measuring stick, six cubits long, each consisting of a cubit and a handbreadth, and he measured the width of the wall structure, one measuring stick, and the height, one measuring stick. Then he went to the gate which faced east, up seven stairs, and measured across the entrance of the gate, one measuring stick wide. Each gate chamber was one measuring stick long and one measuring stick

wide. Between the gate chambers was a space of six cubits, and the second gate chamber was one measuring stick wide, one measuring stick long; and the entrance was five cubits. The third gate chamber was one measuring stick wide and one measuring stick long. The neighboring entrance was eight cubits, and the gatepost was two cubits, also the outer entrance of the gate.

The gate chambers were three on one side and three on the other. There was one measurement to all three and one measurement to the entrances on this side and the other. He measured the width of the entrance to the gate, ten cubits, and the length of the gate, thirteen cubits. The dimensions of the front of the gate chambers were equal, and the gate chambers were six cubits on this side and six cubits on that side. Then he measured the gate from the roof of one gate chamber to the roof of the other, and the width was twenty-five cubits, from one gate to the other. He measured the open inner court of the gate chamber, sixty cubits high, and there were twenty gate chambers all around. From the open court of the gate outside into the open inner court of the gate chamber within was fifty cubits. There were hidden windows in the gate chambers and in their entrances on the inside of the gate all around, and likewise the

entrances had hidden windows all around. There were windows all around on the inside, and on each entrance chamber were ornamental palm trees, equally displayed on one side and the other.

Then he brought me into the inner court; and behold, there were temple chambers and pillars all around the court; thirty chambers among the pillars. The porches were

behind the gates; corresponding to the same length of the gates was the underlying pillar. Then he measured the width of the court, from the open air court of the gate which was to the outside to the open air court of the gate which faces out, a hundred cubits to the court which faces east. Then he led me to the north side.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 42:15-20

From the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now the measurement of the whole house was completed within. Then he led me along the way of the gate which faces east, and measured the whole pattern of the house all around in its plan. He stood behind the gate which faces east and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned to the north side and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned toward the west and measured

five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. Then he turned toward the south and measured five hundred measuring stick units of measurement. The four directions were the same measurement, and he planned it out, and the enclosing wall all around was five hundred units to the east and five hundred units in width for setting out the boundary wall between the holy precinct and the remaining layout of the house.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 43:1-7

Again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east, and led me out. Behold, the glory of the God of Israel was approaching from the way of the gate which faces east. The sound of His camp was like the sound of many voices redoubled upon each other, and the earth shone forth His glory with a brightness all

around. The vision I saw was like the vision I saw when I entered to anoint the city, and the vision of the chariot I saw was like the vision I saw by the River Chebar; so I fell on my face. Then the glory of the Lord entered into the house by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me

into the inner court, and behold, the house was full of the Lord's glory.

Then I stood, and behold, there was a voice from the house, and a Man was standing with me. He said to me, "Son of man, you have seen the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will

dwell in the midst of the house of Israel forever. No more will the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their leaders, by their fornication or murders of the leaders in their midst.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Ezekiel 44:1-5

And again from the book of Ezekiel the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary that faces toward the east, but it was shut. So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. As for the prince, he will sit in it to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber and go out the same way."

Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the

temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory; and I fell on my face. The Lord said to me, "Son of man, note well with your heart, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all I say to you concerning all the ordinances of the Lord's house and all its laws. Mark well with your heart the entering of the house according to all its exits in all its holy places.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Baptistry

The Prophecies

Exodus 15:22-16:1

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, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

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.

Zechariah 8:7-19

From the book of Zechariah 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.

Zechariah 14:8-11

Again from the book of Zechariah 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.

Myron

The Prophecies

Isaias 61:1-7

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the

Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 30:22-33

From the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

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. You shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil throughout your generations. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any like it according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Exodus 39:23-40:32

Again from the book of Exodus of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Then Moses looked over all the work, and it was done in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. They did it in this way, and Moses blessed them.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “On the first day of the first month, the new moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put in it the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and lay out its offering, and bring in the lampstand and install its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark, and put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle of testimo-

ny. Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offerings before the door of the tabernacle of testimony. You shall put a cover over the tabernacle and consecrate everything pertaining to it. You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; and you shall consecrate it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.

“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of testimony and wash them with water. You shall put the holy gar-

ments on Aaron and anoint and consecrate him that he may minister to Me as priest. You shall also bring his sons and put garments on them. You shall anoint them as you anointed their father, so they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.” Thus Moses did; according to all the Lord commanded him, so he did.

Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. So Moses set up the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Then he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the poles under the ark. He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses. He put the table in the tabernacle of testimony, on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, outside the veil of the tabernacle. He also set the bread of

the offertory upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work.

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord’s glory. But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. But if the cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

Burial

Women During Childbrith

The Prophecies

Isaias 26:9-20

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. The ungodly man ceases; he will not learn righteousness on the earth; he will not do the truth; let the ungodly man be taken away, that he may not see the glory of the Lord. O Lord, Your arm is exalted, but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed, for jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries. O Lord our God, grant us peace, for You render everything to us. O Lord our God, possess us; O Lord, we know no other besides You; we name Your name. The dead will not see life; neither will physicians raise them. Therefore You brought evils upon them and destroyed them, and took away every male of theirs. Bring more

evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth. O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction. As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved because of Your fear, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain, and we have given birth. We brought forth the spirit of Your salvation on the earth. But the inhabitants of the world shall fall. The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad, for your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end.” Come, my people, enter your closets and shut your door; hide yourself for a very short while, until the anger of the Lord is past.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

EACH DAY

After Supper: Retiring

The Prophecies

Isaias 8:8-9:6 (From the Coptic)

From the book of Isaias the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God is with us. Know, all nations, that God is with us. Know to the end of the earth that God is with us. All your counsels will be brought to nought, and you should strengthen your hands again, you will become feeble, for God is with us. And all counsels which you shall counsel will not be able to stand, for God is with us; all your words will be brought to nought at once, for God is with us. And the fear of you we will not fear, neither will we be grieved at heart, for God is with us. And the Lord, you will bless Him, for He is our God: He it is Who gives strength to us, for

God is with us. For we have trusted in Him, and on account of Him we will be saved, for God is with us. Behold, I and the children whom God hath given to me. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; and on them who sit in the land and the shadow of death a light hath shone, for God is with us, Whose government shall be upon His shoulders, Wonderful Counsellor, for God is with us. God Who is strong, Who is of authority, Prince of Peace and Father of the future ages, for God is with us.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.