

The Apostle Readings  
of the  
Coptic Rite

The Apostle Readings of the Coptic Rite

No ISBN for this edition.

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# **ANNUAL TIME**

## September or Θοορτ

### The First Sunday of September or Θοορτ

#### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12-19a

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

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he has considered me faithful and has appointed me to [this] ministry, even though I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor and disrespectful. Nevertheless, I obtained mercy, because I did those things in ignorance and unbelief; and so the grace of our Lord overflowed [onto me along] with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first. This is how I

obtained mercy, so that in me as ‘the first’, Jesus Christ might show all his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. Now, to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

I commit this instruction to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies made earlier which singled you out. By them, may you fight the good fight, keeping the faith and a good conscience.

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

James 1:22-27

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

Be ‘doers of the word’; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a ‘hearer of the word’ and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going

away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is

this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:25-33a

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

As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.' Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his

execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

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

## The Second Sunday of September or Θοορτ

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 1:12-2:10

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

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, for I know

him in whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to guard

what I have committed to him until that Day.

Hold to the example of sound teachings which you have heard from me, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you.

As you know, all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my imprisonment. When he was in Rome, he searched hard for me and he found me! May the Lord grant him to find the Lord's mercy in that Day, for he served [me] at Ephesus in many ways, as you know very well.

You, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. What you heard from me among many witnesses, entrust likewise to faithful men who will be able to teach others

also. You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God's word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:5-13

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

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable

Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of

everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law

of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 11:19-26

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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

## The Third Sunday of September or Θοορτ

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not stand by human wisdom but in the power of God. However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

*Things which an eye did not see, and  
an ear did not hear,  
Which did not enter into the heart of  
man,  
These God has prepared for those  
who love him.*

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God’s Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ!

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:13-21

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

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed,

not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:22-31

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

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him

to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in

the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they

continued to grow.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of September or Θοορτ

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the Church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, even so our consolation also overflows through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your consolation, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, knowing that, since you are partakers of the sufferings, you are also partaker of the comfort. For we do not

desire to have you uninformed, brethren, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia: we were extremely oppressed, beyond our power, so much that we even despaired of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves but [only] in God who raises the dead. He who delivered us from such a great death and continued to deliver; we hope that he will also deliver us. You also help by your supplication on our behalf; so that thanksgiving will be offered for the gift bestowed on us by means of many.

Our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience. We act in the world in holiness and sincerity of God (not in carnal wisdom but in the grace of God), and we do so more abundantly toward you. We only write what you can read and acknowledge: I hope that you will accept [those things] to the end; as you also received us in part. I also hope that

we are your boasting, even as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:8b-12

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

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should not be like Cain who was of the evil one and who killed his brother [Abel]. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, while his brother's works were righteous.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:36-42

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

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, 'Do not to delay in coming to help us!' So Peter arose and went with

them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her

up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of September or Θοορτ

### See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges

who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## **The Praxis**

Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

The Second Sunday of February or **Uwip**, page 183.

## August 29 (30) / ΘΟΟΡΤ 1

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

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

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

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have something to answer to those who boast in appearances—not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new! But all things are of

God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and who gave to us the ministry of reconciliation. What I mean is that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not imputing sins, but having entrusted us with the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ: it is as if God was making [his] supplication through us: we beg you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God! God made him who knew no sin to become sin for our sake; so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

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

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endur-

ance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold,

we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:7-17

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

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

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

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

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions,

is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 17:16-34

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

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Others suggested, “He seems to be advocating foreign deities,” because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasian] ‘the resurrection’.

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

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in

all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being?’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God over-

looked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead."

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked;

but others said, "We want to hear you again on this matter."

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

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

## August 30 (31) / Θοορτ 2

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

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

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

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

And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles

us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before

him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-20

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

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the

Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

## The Praxis

12:1-12

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

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter as well. (This was during the days of unleavened bread). After arresting Peter, he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. And so, Peter was kept in the prison, but constant prayer was made by the Church to God for him. The same night, when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Stricking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, “Stand up quickly!”, and Peter’s chains fell off from his hands. The angel said to

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

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

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

**August 31 (Sept 1) / Tho-out 3 through September 4 (5) / Θοορτ**

7

August 31 (September 1) / Θοορτ 3, see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

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

September 1 (2) / Θοορτ 4, see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

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

September 2 (3) / Θοορτ 5, see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

Joyful tune. St. Sophia the Martyr.

September 3 (4) / Θοορτ 6, see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

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

September 4 (5) / Θοορτ 7, see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

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

## September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8

Joyful Tune  
St. Zachariah the Priest and Martyr  
**Moses the Archprophet**  
St. Diomede the Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:17-27

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

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

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

disgrace of the Anointed one greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on the reward. By faith, he left Egypt, not

fearing the wrath of the king, but he persevered as if he was seeing him who is invisible.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

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

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

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:21-29

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

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

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’,

although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

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

## September 6 (7) / Tho-out 9 through Θοορτ 15

September 6 (7) / Θοορτ 9, see November 24 (25) / Δεοπ 28, page 100.

Joyful tune. St. Pisora the bishop and martyr.

September 7 (8) / Θοορτ 10, see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

Joyful tune. **St. Matruna the martyr.** Sts. Basin and her three children, the martyrs.

September 8 (9) / Θοορτ 11, see April 22 / Παρμορτε 27, page 211.

Joyful tune. St. Basilides the martyr.

September 9 (10) / Θοορτ 12, see November 5 (6) / Δεοπ 9, page 77.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. **Council of Ephesus.**  
September 10 (11) / Θοορτ 13, see November 13 (14) / Αεορ 17, page 86.

Joyful tune. **St. Metthias II**, 90<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Miracle performed by St. Basil.  
September 11(12) / Θοορτ 14, see July 27 / Λεοφρ 3, page 287.

Joyful tune. St. Agathon the stylite. Sts. Felix, Rigula, and Exuperius of the Theban Legion.  
September 12 (13) / Θοορτ 15, see December 27 (28) / Ιωβι 1, page 137.

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

## September 13 (14) / Θοορτ 16

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

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:1-10

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

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

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:1-10

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

[And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached to you.]\* Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:31-43

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

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in

the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!” And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him,

‘Do not delay in coming to help us!’” So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

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

## September 14 (15) / Θορτ 17

### Palm Tune

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

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

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

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

but to us who are saved it is the power of God. As it is written:

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

Where is the wise? Where is the expert of the law? Where is the

debater of this world? Has not God ridiculed the wisdom of this world? Since in God's wisdom, the world through its 'wisdom' did not know God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe. Jews ask for signs and Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks. However, to those who are called, (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, because God's 'foolishness' is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Consider your calling, brethren, that not many [among you] were wise according to the flesh, not

many powerful, and not [many] of noble birth. Nevertheless, God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are 'wise'. [Yes], God chose the weak things of the world in order to put to shame the things that are strong. God also chose the lowly things of the world, the things that are despised, and the things that are not, so that he might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh should boast before God. But by God's doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; so that, according as it is written, "Whoever boasts should boast in the Lord."

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-25

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

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

good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when

you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one

who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

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

\*or “bishop” or “episcopos”

## The Praxis

Acts 10:34-43

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

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

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

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

## September 15 (16) / Θοορτ 18

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

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Galatians 6:11-18

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

See with what large letters I write to you with my own hand! It is those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh who are trying to compel you to be circumcised; and it only so that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. In

Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation {is significant}. To those who live by this rule, may there be peace and mercy upon them, and on the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

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

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

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 Peter 1:3-12

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not

fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various

trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and

time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:8-18

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

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

there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished

through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer

speak to anyone in this Name.” They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

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

## September 16 (17) / ԹօօՐՏ 19

Palm Tune  
**Third Day of the Feast of the Cross**  
St. Gregory the Armenian

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 2:6-19

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

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

Be careful not to let anyone rob you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to human tradition and the basic things of the world, and not after Christ. For in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and in him who is the head of all principality and power, you are made full. In him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, by casting off the sinful nature in the circumcision of Christ. You have been buried with him through baptism in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working

of God, who raised him from the dead. You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, but he made you alive with him by forgiving us all our trespasses and by wiping out the handwriting of ordinances which was against us. He removed it out of the way, nailing it to the cross, having exposed the principalities and powers, making a public display of them and triumphing over them.

Therefore, let no one judge you in matters of eating, drinking, or regarding a feast day, new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Let no one rob you of your prize by false humility and a religion of angels, dwelling on things

which such a one has not seen, vainly puffed up by a carnal mind. Such a person is not holding firmly to the head, from whom the whole body,

being supported and knit together through the joints and ligaments, grows with the growth given by God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:13-21

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

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

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

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

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this

case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 3:12-21

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

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

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

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

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

## September 17 (18) / Θοορτ 20

See January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

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

## September 18 (19) / ΘεορΤ 21

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

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 1:1-11

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

Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ;

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God whenever I remember you, and I always pray with joy when I intercede on your behalf because of your partnership in the furtherance of the Good News, even from the very first day until now. I am confident of this very thing: that God who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about you, because I have you in my heart and because you are all

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

I pray [especially] for this, that your love may overflow even more, with an increase of knowledge and all discernment. This way, you will be able to discern what things are excellent, so that you may be sincere and without offense to the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God!

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-11

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

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had

since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in

another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 19:11-17

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

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

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

But the evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

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

**September 19 (20) / Θοορτ 22 through September 22 (23) /**

## **Θοορτ 25**

September 19 (20) / Θοορτ 22, see April 22 / Παρμορτε 27, page 211.

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

September 20 (21) / Θοορτ 23, see September 18 (19) / Θοορτ 21, page 35.

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

September 21 (22) / Θοορτ 24, see December 27 (28) / Ιωβι 1, page 137.

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

September 22 (23) / Θοορτ 25, see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

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

## September 23 (24) / Θοορτ 26

Annual Tune

Annunciation of the nativity of St. John the Baptist

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:1-17

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

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

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

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I may be blessed by the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift with the purpose that you may be established; that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you

also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. This is why there is so much eagerness on my part to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power

of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:1-18

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

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

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

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like

the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

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

forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:2b-7

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

The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was [still] in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. And God said to him, ‘Leave your land and your relatives, and come into a land which I will show you.’ This is how Abraham came out of the land of the Chaldaeans and lived in Haran. From there, when his father was dead, God moved him into this land, where you are now living. He gave Abraham no inheritance in this land, no, not so much as to set his foot on it. But God had promised

that he and his descendants would possess this land, even when Abraham was still without child. God spoke in this way: that Abraham’s descendants would live as aliens in a foreign land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated for four hundred years. I will judge the nation to which they will be in bondage,’ said God, ‘and after that [time], will they come out and offer me divine service in this place.’

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

**September 24 (25) / Θοορτ 27 through September 31 (Oct 1) /**

## Παωπε 3

September 24 (25) / Θοορτ 27, see November 18 (19) / Δεορ 22, page 90.

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

September 25 (26) / Θοορτ 28, see November 18 (19) / Δεορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Sts. Apater and Eraee the martyrs.

September 26 (27) / Θοορτ 29, see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

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

September 27 (28) / Θοορτ 30, see November 13 (14) / Δεορ 17, page 86.

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

September 28 (29) / **Πατριάρχης** 1, see January 25 (26) / **Τωβήνης** 30, page 177

Annual tune. St. Anastasia the martyr.

September 30 (31) / **Πατριάρχης** 2, see June 27 / **Επικήπτης** 3, page 262.

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

September 31 (Oct 1) / **Πατριάρχης** 3, see November 13 (14) / **Δεοπότης** 17, page 86.

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

## October or Παύπε

### The First Sunday of October or Παύπε

#### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

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

Now, when I came to Troas for the Good News of Christ as a door was opened to me in the Lord, I had no relief for my spirit, because I did not find Titus, my brother. After taking my leave of them [in Troas], I headed into Macedonia. Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and reveals through us the sweet fragrance of his knowledge in every place. Indeed, we are a sweet fragrance of Christ to God, both in those who are saved and in those who perish. To the latter, we are a stench from death to death, but to the first [we are] a sweet fragrance from life to life. Who is equal to such a task? We are not as many who ‘peddle the word of God’, but we speak in Christ with sincerity, as of God and in the sight of God.

Are we again trying to obtain your approval? Or do we need (as some do) letters of recommendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all! It is being revealed that you are a letter of Christ, served by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, and not in tablets of stone but in tablets that are hearts of flesh. We have such confidence through Christ toward God; not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves; but our competence is from God who has made us competent as servants of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life!

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

#### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:22-2:5

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

Having purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart, fervently! You have been born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, through the word of God which lives and remains forever. For:

*All flesh is like grass,  
and all of man's glory like the flower  
in the grass.*

*The grass withers, and its flower  
falls;  
but the word of the Lord endures for-  
ever.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:36-43

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

Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,  
which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.'*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God.

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

## The Second Sunday of October or Πανούσε

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:5-15

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

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so

that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

James 3:13-4:6

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

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not

boast and do not lie against the truth. This ‘wisdom’ is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But

the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,

in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The spirit which dwells in us longs to envy”? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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

## The Praxis

Acts 14:24-15:3

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

They passed through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. After preaching the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there, they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now fulfilled. When they arrived, they gathered the Church and reported all that God had accomplished with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers,

“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren.

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

## The Third Sunday of October or Πανώπε

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 16:12-24

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

Now concerning Apollos, the brother: I strongly urged him to come to you with the brothers; but it was not his desire to come now. He will come when he has an opportunity.

Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! Let all that you do be done in love.

Now I beg you, brethren (you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to serve the saints), that you also be in service to people like this to everyone who helps in the work and labors. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus; for what was lacking on your part, they

supplied. They refreshed my spirit and yours; show therefore your appreciation to such people.

The Churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the Church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss!

This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

James 4:7-17

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

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your

laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks

against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit.” But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a

mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:4-12

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

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!”

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good

News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of October or Παύπε

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 6:3-21

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

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness, such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and

gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith] in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

Instruct those who are rich in this present world that they should not be proud or place their hope uncertain of riches but on the living God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Teach them to do good, to be rich in good works, ready to distribute and willing to share. In this way they will store up for themselves a good foundation for the future and take hold of eternal life.

Timothy, guard what has been committed to you! Turn away from worldly and empty discussions and from the contradiction of the (falsely)

so-called knowledge. Those who have embraced this have wandered from the faith! Grace be with you! Amen.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 4:17-5:11

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

If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts' content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous one who does not resist you.

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold,

the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is [very merciful, compassionate, and long-suffering]\*.

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

\*[] OSB has “is full of compassion and mercy.”

## The Praxis

Acts 15:36-16:5

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

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!” Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple

named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presbyters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of October or Παύπε

See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or

greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a

person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

"Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!"

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide

between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his

letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your

own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

The Second Sunday of February or Κυριακή, page 183.

## October 1 (2) / Πασχα 4 through October 8 (9) / Πασχα 11

October 1(2) / Πασχα 4 see March 9 / Παριγόντη 13, page 199.

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

October 2 (3) / Πασχα 5 see November 13 (14) / Δεοπ 17, page 86.

Annual tune. St. Paul the Patriarch of Constantinople.

October 3 (4) / Πασχα 6 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30, page 177.

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

October 4 (5) / Πασχα 7 see May 15 / Παψλος 20, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Paul of Tamoah.

October 5 (6) / Πασχα 8 see November 21 (22) / Δεοπ 25, page 95.

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

October 6 (7) / **Πασπέ** 9 see November 13 (14) / **Δεοπ** 17, page 86.

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

October 7 (8) / **Πασπέ** 10 see March 9 / **Παριγοτπ** 13, page 199.

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

October 8 (9) / **Πασπέ** 11 see June 27 / **Επηπ** 3, page 262.

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

## October 9 (10) / **Πασπέ** 12

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

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 4:11-19

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

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him

who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

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

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

### **1 Peter 1:3-12**

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

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

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

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

## **The Praxis**

### **Acts 5:12-18**

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

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

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

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

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

## October 10 (11) / Πασχα 13

See May 15 / Πασχα 20, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Zachariah the ascetic.

## October 11 (12) / Πασχα 14

Annual Tune  
St. Philip the Deacon and Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Titus 2:11-3:7

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

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave

himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good

work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did

ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:5-13a

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 8:26-39

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

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

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

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

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

## October 12 (13) / Παρασκευή 15 through October 18 (19) / Παρασκευή 21

October 12 (13) / Παρασκευή 15 see July 14 / Επίτηπτον 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Pantilemon the physician and martyr.

October 13 (14) / Παρασκευή 16 see November 25 (26) / Αθεορτόν 29, page 103.

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

October 14 (15) / Παρασκευή 17 see June 27 / Επίτηπτον 3, page 262.

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

October 15 (16) / Παρασκευή 18 see November 25 (26) / Αθεορτόν 29, page 103.

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

October 16 (17) / Παρασκευή 19 see July 14 / Επίτηπτον 20, page 284.

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

October 17 (18) / Παρασκευή 20 see January 27 (28) / Ιανουάριον 2, page 179.

Annual tune. St. John colobus.

October 18 (19) / Παρασκευή 21 see September 5 (6) / Θεοφάνεια 8, page 22.

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

## October 19 (20) / Παρασκευή 22

Annual Tune  
St. Luke the Evangelist

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 4:2-18

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

Persevere in prayer, even in vigils of thanksgiving. Pray for us as well, so that God may open to us a door for the word, [an opportunity] to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray also that I may

reveal it as clearly as I should. Live wisely before those who are ‘outside’, and make the most of your time. Let your speech always be pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you may

know how to properly answer those who have questions.

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, “if he comes to you, receive him”), and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is

always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, “Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it.”

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:15b-22

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

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

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

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

while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus

Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

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

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

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

Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which

the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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

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

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas,

Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication,

together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

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

## October 20 (21) / Παστορε 23 through October 23 (24) / Παστορε 26

October 20 (21) / Παστορε 23 see November 24 (25) / Δεοπ 28, page 100.

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

October 21 (22) / Παστορε 24 see January 17 (18) / Γιωβι 22, page 172.

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

October 22 (23) / Παστορε 25 see May 15 / Παψανς 20, page 231.

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

October 23 (24) / Παστορε 26 see December 27 (28) / Γιωβι 1, page 137.

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

## October 24 (25) / Παστορε 27

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

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:17-31

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

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, “In Isaac will your seed be called”. Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead.

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph’s and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was

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

who is invisible. By faith, he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch them. By faith, they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land and when the Egyptians tried to do likewise, they were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient because she had received the spies in peace.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:12-21

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

**October 25 (26) / Παστε 28 through October 31 (November 1) /**

### **Δεοπ 4**

October 25 (26) / Παστε 28 see November 21 (22) / Δεοπ 25, page 95.

Annual tune. Sts. Marcian and Mercurius the martyrs.

October 26 (27) / Παστε 29 see November 23 (24) / Δεοπ 27, page 98.

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

October 27 (28) / Παστε 30 see April 25 / Παριστε 30, page 214.

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

October 28 (29) / Λεοπ 1 see June 27 / Επιμπ 3, page 262.

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

October 29 (30) / Λεοπ 2 see November 25 (26) / Λεοπ 29, page 103.

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

October 30 (31) / Λεοπ 3 see November 5 (6) / Λεοπ 9, page 77.

Annual tune. **St. Cyrus.** St. Athanasius and his sister, Irene.

October 31 (November 1) / Λεοπ 4 see November 24 (25) / Λεοπ 28, page 100.

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

# November or Αεορτή

## The First Sunday of November or Αεορτή

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 9:1-9

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

It is not needed that I should write to you about the ministry to the saints. Indeed, I know that you are ready and I boast about you to the Macedonians, that you in Achaia have been ready since last year. Your zeal has encouraged very many of them! But I have sent the brothers, so that our boasting about you may not be in vain in this respect: as I have said, be prepared. Otherwise, if anyone from Macedonia comes with us and finds you unprepared, we (to say nothing of you) would be disappointed in this confident boasting [about you]. Therefore, I thought it necessary to ask the brothers to reach you first in order to arrange ahead of time the generous gift which you promised

before. Thus, may the gift be ready as a matter of generosity, not greediness. Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Let everyone give according to what he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that by having what is needed in everything, you may overflow in every good work. As it is written:

*He has scattered abroad, he has given to the poor.*

*His righteousness remains forever.*

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

### The Catholic Epistle

James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we

shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone

who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea

creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tonguel! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 10:37-11:1

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

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day

and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins."

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. The believers who had come with Peter and who were of the circumcision were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. Indeed, they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God.

At this, Peter said, “Can anyone refuse the water to these people,

seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit as well as we had, and say that they should not be baptized?” He then ordered that they be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. After this, they asked him to stay for a few days.

Now, the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

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

## The Second Sunday of November or Αεοπ

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 6:7-15

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

On the other hand, the land which has absorbed the rain that comes often upon it and thus brings forth a crop suitable for those who till it; such a land receives blessing from God. Yet, if it bears thorns and thistles, it is rejected, close to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

But, beloved, even though we speak like this, we are persuaded of better things for you, of things that accompany salvation. God is not unrighteous, so as to forget your work and the labor of love which you showed for his Name by serving the

saints even as you still serve them. We desire that each one of you may show the same zeal to the end, to [obtain] the fullness of hope. Do not be sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience have inherited the promises.

When God made a promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless and multiply you.” Thus, having patiently endured, Abraham obtained the promise.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 14-25

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

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,  
to execute judgment on all,  
and to convict all the ungodly of all  
their works of ungodliness  
which they have done in an ungodly  
way,  
and of all the hard things which un-  
godly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who

cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:19-29

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

But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand

in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One

[officer] came forward and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people." Then, the captain went with the officers and brought them without using force because they were afraid that the people might stone them.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, "Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us!"

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men!"

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

## The Third Sunday of November or Αεορ

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

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

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy: to the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith is

growing wonderfully and your mutual love for all is overflowing. Therefore, in the Churches of God, we boast about you for your patience, faith in all your persecutions and for the afflictions which you endure. This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, so that you may be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of

God, for which you too suffer. It is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us. This will be when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, bringing vengeance to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes to be glorified in his

holy ones and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

With this in mind, we also pray always for you, so that our God may account you worthy of your calling and fulfill with power [your] every desire of goodness and work of faith. May the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:3-11

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

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled

and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 5:30-42

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

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God has exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior in order to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins. We are his witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Hearing this, they were enraged and determined to kill them. But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all

came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!”

They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they had them flogged and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus; then, they released them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of his Name.

Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of November or Αεορτή

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

And so, let everyone think of us as Christ's servants, and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful! But as far as I am concerned, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or according to human judgment. Yes, I do not [even] judge my own self, for I know nothing against myself. Yet, I am not justified by this, but the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, [that is] until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of every heart. Then, each person will receive due praise from God.

Brethren, I have figuratively applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that in us you might learn the meaning of 'not beyond the things which are written', so that none of you will be puffed up against another. Indeed, who makes you different? And what do you have that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [But] you are already filled! You have already become rich and you have come to

rule apart from us! Yes, and I wish that you would really be rulers, so that we also might reign with you. I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked, beaten and [we] wander from place to place! We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:1-8

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

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become

partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 16:40-17:7

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

So, they went out of the prison and went to Lydia's house where they met the brethren and encouraged them. Then, they departed.

After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul gave them his attention and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with

them from the Scriptures. He explained and showed that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ."

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along

some wicked men from the market-place, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assailing the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city officials, shouting,

“These people who have turned the world upside down have also come here, and Jason has received them! All of them act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!”

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

## The Fifth Sunday of November or **Ἀεοπ**

### See The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels?

How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male

prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were

sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were

opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was

without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

The Second Sunday of February or Κυριακή, page 183.

## November 1 (2) / Δεοπ 5 through November 3 (4) / Δεοπ 7

November 1 (2) / Δεοπ 5 see November 23 (24) / Δεοπ 27, page 98.

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

November 2 (3) / Δεοπ 6 see November 13 (14) / Δεοπ 17, page 86.

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

November 3 (4) / Δεοπ 7 see April 18 / Παρωντε 23, page 208.

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

## November 4 (5) / Δεοπ 8

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Four Incorporeal Beasts  
St. Pierius, the Deacon of the Catechetical School of Alexandria

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:21b-13:2

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

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

Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the Church of the firstborn who are

enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which pleads better than Abel’s [blood].

See that you do not refuse to listen to the one who speaks. For if they did

not escape when they rejected him who warned on the Earth, we will certainly not escape if we turn away from him who warns from heaven! Then, his voice shook the earth, but now, he has promised with these words, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." The words "yet once more" indicates the removal of the things that are shaken since they are created things. But those things which

are not shaken remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

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

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

### **1 Peter 3:15b-22**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 11:2-14

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!”

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered

into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’

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

## November 5 (6) / Αεοπ 9

Annual tune

**St. Isaac**, the 41<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria  
Assembly of the Holy Council of Nicaea

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:13-5:5

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

For the promise to Abraham and to his seed that he should be heir of the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations." This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "the father of many nations", according to what had been spoken, "And so will your seed be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Yet, looking to the

promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was "credited to him for righteousness." Now, it was not written that "it was accounted to him" for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered up for our sins, and was raised for our justification. Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:3-12

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father

again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and

undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation,

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 11:15-24

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

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified

God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch.

The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of

God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

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

## November 6 (7) / Δεοπ 10 through November 7 (8) / Δεοπ 11

November 6 (7) / Δεοπ 10 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Sophia and the fifty virgins with her, the martyrs. Assembly of a holy council in Rome.

November 7 (8) / Δεοπ 11 see September 23 (24) / Θορτ 26, page 37.

Annual Tune. **St. Anna**, the mother of the Theotokos. St. Archilaus and St. Elisha the Hegoumen, the martyrs.

## November 8 (9) / Δεοπ 12

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of Archangel Michael

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-2:4

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

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our

sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf  
and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*'Let all the angels of God worship him.'*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.*

*But of the Son he says:*

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages  
of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter  
of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and  
hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your  
companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the  
foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your  
hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;*

*but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies the foot-  
stool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we were taught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 1:1-13

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

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common

salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are

ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings. But the archangel Michael, when he contend with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring against

the devil an evil-speaking judgment, but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" Yet, these people speak evil of things they know nothing about. What they do understand (by natural power, like the creatures without reason), these things will destroyed them. Woe to them! They have followed the path of Cain and they have thrown themselves after the error of Balaam for the sake of money, and they have perished in Korah's rebellion. These people are like hidden and rocky reefs in your agape meals, when they feast with you. They are shepherds who feed themselves without fear, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved to the age.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 10:1-20

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

Now, there was a certain man in Caesarea, whose named was Cornelius. He was a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man who feared God with his entire household. He gave generous

alms to the people and always prayed to God. At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him, and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

Gazing at the angel, and being quite alarmed, Cornelius said, "What is it, Lord?"

The angel replied, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now, send men to Joppa, and get Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with a certain Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."

When the angel who had spoken to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among his attendants. Having explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Now, on the next day, as they were on their way and approached the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a great sheet let down on the earth by four corners and descending to him. In it were all

kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat!"

But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean!"

Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, "What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean." This happened three times, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. As Peter was very perplexed regarding the meaning of the vision, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius found where Simon's house was and stood at the gate. They called and asked whether Simon, who was called Peter, was lodging there. While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise and go down-stairs! Accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

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

## November 9 (10) / Αεορτὴ 13 through November 10 (11) / Αεορτὴ 14

Novmber 9 (10) / Αεορτὴ 13 see June 27 / Επήπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Timothy, the bishop of Ansera. **Abba Zacharias**, the 64<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

Novmber 10 (11) / Αεορτὴ 14 see November 24 (25) / Αεορτὴ 28, page 100.

Annual Tune. St. Martin, bishop of Tours

## November 11 (12) / Αεορτή 15

Annual Tune  
St. Mena the Wonder-Worker and the Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:3-14

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

Consider him who has endured such opposition from sinners, and you will not grow weary or faint in your souls. In your own battle against sin, you have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood. Have you forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children:

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord,  
do not faint when you are reproved by him;  
for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens,  
and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not

children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of {our} spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-19a

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a

Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:44-8:1a

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

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house.

However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build  
for me?' says the Lord;*

*'or what is the place of my rest?  
Did not my hand make all these  
things?'*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not perse-

cute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Then, they shouted with a loud voice, blocking their ears, and rushed at him with one accord. So they threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called in prayer, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

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

## November 12 (13) / Αεορτή 16

See June 10 / Παρωνέ 16, page 256.

Annual tune. The beginning of the Nativity Fast of Advent. The consecration of the Church of **St. Onuphrius** the pilgrim. St Bostus the bishop and martyr.

## November 13 (14) / Αεορτή 17

Annual Tune  
St. John Chrysostom

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 3:10-4:22

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

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all

those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned

which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appear-

ing. Do your utmost to visit me soon, because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as well as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metal-worker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and heard by all the Gentiles. I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion and the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Greet Prisca, Aquila, and the house of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained at Corinth, but I left Trophimus at Miletus sick. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brethren. May the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Grace be with you. Amen.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil,

roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 20:17-38

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

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the presbyters of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. I served the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews. I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house. To both Jews and to Greek, I bore witness to repentance before God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, behold, I go to Jerusalem bound by the Spirit. I do not know what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. But these things do not count, and I do not hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy and [fulfill] the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood

of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch over yourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver, or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive!'"

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he

had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

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

## November 14 (15) / Αεορτή 18 through November 17 (18) / Αεορτή

### 21

November 14 (15) / Αεορτή 18 see June 29 / Επίηπτος 5, page 266.

Annual tune. Sts. Arases and Junia the martyrs. St. Philip the Apostle and martyr.

November 15 (16) / Αεορτή 19 see March 9 / Παριηγότηπος 13, page 199.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of **Sts. Sergius and Bacchus**. The commemoration of the St. Bartholomew's preaching in the oasis.

November 16 (17) / Αεορτή 20 see April 25 / Παριηγότηπος 30, page 214.

Annual tune. **St. Ananias**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The consecration of the Church of St. Theodoros of Shatb and St. Theodoros Meshreky.

November 17 (18) / Αεορτή 21 see November 13 (14) / Αεορτή 17, page 86.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Cosmos, the 54<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. **St. Gregory the Wonder-Worker**. Sts. /Alphaeius, Zachaeus, Romanius, John, Thomas, and Victor, the martyrs.

## November 18 (19) / Αεορτή 22

Annual Tune

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, their brothers and their mother, the martyrs.

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:14-27

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

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received

the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God;

and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves,

awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints [are always in accordance with God].\*

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

\*[] excluded in lectionary.

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

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

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

evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 19:11-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

## November 19 (20) / Αεοπ 23

See November 24 (25) / Αεοπ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. **St. Cornelius** the Centurion. Consecration of the Church of St. Marina.

## November 20 (21) / Αεορτὴ τῶν Επισκόπων 24

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of the Twenty-Four Presbyters

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

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

Presbyters who rule well should be accounted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in preaching and teaching. As the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Do not receive an accusation against a presbyter, except at the word of two or three witnesses. Reprove those who have sinned in the sight of all, so that the others may also be in fear. I command you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels: observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay your hands hastily on anyone and do not be a participant in someone else’s sins. Keep yourself pure. Do not drink only water but use a little wine for

your stomach and because of your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious long before they come to judgment while others are discovered only later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Those who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of all honor, so that God’s Name and our doctrine may not be brought into disrepute. Slaves whose masters are believers should not despise them because they are brethren. Rather, they should them serve them because those who have a share in the benefit [of their work] are believing and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 5:1-14

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

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a

witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the

glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist

him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:6-12

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

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations

should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why

do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are."

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

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

## November 21 (22) / Δεοπ 25

Annual Tune  
St. Philopater Mercurius

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

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

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience. Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone

trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, "His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is worthless." Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are with-

outunderstanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did notreach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will

be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But “he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings

but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false

prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

**November 22 (23) / Αεοπ 26**

See November 18 (19) / Αεοπ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. **Sts. Velerian and Tiburcius**, the martyrs. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

## November 23 (24) / Αεορτή 27

Annual Tune  
**St. James the Persian**, the martyr  
The consecration of the Church of St. Victor the martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 1:1-19

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

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other “Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I

am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went

away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days.

However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:1-12

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

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

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

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

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:13-21

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

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon

has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order

to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;  
All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,  
Says the Lord, who does all these things.'*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

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

## November 24 (25) / Αεοπ 28

Annual Tune  
St. Sarapamon the Bishop of Nokiu and the martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:18-8:13

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

There is a cancellation of an earlier commandment because of its weakness and uselessness, because the law made nothing perfect. And there is the introduction of a better hope through which we draw near to God. Moreover, our Lord was not made priest without the taking of an oath (although others became priests without any oath). But with an oath, God says of him:

*The Lord swore and will not change his mind,  
You are a priest forever,*

*according to the order of Melchizedek.'*

Because of this, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Many, indeed, were made priests [in the past] because they are prevented from continuing in office when they die. But he, because he lives forever, holds a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is also able to save to the very end those who draw near to God through him, because he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, “Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,*

*and with the house of Judah;*

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,*

*in the day when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of the land of Egypt;*

*for they did not continue in my covenant,*

*and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

*After those days, says the Lord;*

*I will put my laws into their mind, I will also write them on their heart.*

*I will be their God,*

*and they will be my people.*

*They will not teach every man his neighbor,*

*and every man his brother, saying: ‘Know the Lord,’*

*for all will know me,*

*from their least to their greatest.*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness;*

*I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.*

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John (all)

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among

them, does not accept what we say. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!" Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lysstra. And behold, a certain disciple

named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presbyters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day. *The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## November 25 (26) / Δεοπ 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection

**St. Peter the High Priest** and the Seal of the Martyrs

St. Clement the bishop of rome and the martyr.

St. Catherine of Alexandria

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 4:14-5:14

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

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who

cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that

we may receive mercy and find grace for assistance in time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed for their sake in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for [their] sins. The high priest can deal gently with those who are ignorant and going astray since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for the sins for the people as well as for himself. Moreover, nobody assumes this honor by himself but one is called by God, just as Aaron was. Likewise, Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was God who said to him:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.*

As he says also in another place,

*You are a priest forever,*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered prayers and petitions with

loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through suffering. Having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the cause of eternal salvation, named by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

We have many things to say about these things but it is hard to explain because you have become slow at understanding. For although by this time you should be teachers, you still need to have someone teach you [even] the basic principles of God's oracles. You have come to need milk, and not solid food! Everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness; such a person is a baby. But solid food is for those who are fully grown, who have trained their senses to discern good and evil.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-9

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey

Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through

the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even

though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 12:1-24

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

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter as well. (This was during the days of unleavened bread). After arresting Peter, he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. And so, Peter was kept in the prison, but constant prayer was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke Peter up, saying, “Stand up quickly!”, and Peter’s chains fell off from his hands. The angel said to him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals!”, and Peter did so. Then the angel said, “Put on your cloak, and follow me!” And Peter went out and followed the angel, but he did not realize that what was being done by the angel was real, thinking that he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, and it opened to them by itself. Having gone through, they went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

When Peter came to himself, he exclaimed, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent out his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, "You are crazy!" When she insisted that it was so, they said, "It is his angel!" Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, "Tell these things to James, and to the brethren." Then he

departed, and went to another place. As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

At that time, Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. With one accord, they came to him, and, having befriended Blastus (the king's personal aide), they asked for peace because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. The people shouted, "The voice of a god, not of a man!" Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

But the word of God grew and multiplied.

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

## November 26 (27) / Αεορτή 30 through November 30 (December 1) / Κοιάκ 3

Novmber 26 (27) / Αεορτή 30 see June 27 / Επίτηπτή 3, page 262.

Annual tune. **St. Acacius the Patriarch** of Constantinople. The Consecration of the Church of Sts. Cosman, Damina, their brothers, and their mother. St. Macarius the martyr.

Novmber 27 (28) / Κοιάκ 1 see November 13 (14) / Αεορτή 17, page 86.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. **St. Peter the Iberian.** The Consecration of the Church of St. Shenoute the Archimandrite.

Novmber 28 (29) / **Κοιάκ** 2 see June 10 / **Παωνε** 16, page 256.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Abba Hor the monk.

Novmber 29 (30) / **Κοιάκ** 3 see April 26 / **Παψλανс** 1, page 217.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.

November 30 (December 1) / **Κοιάκ** 4 see June 29 / **Επηπ** 5, page 266.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. St. Andrew the Apostle.

## December or Κοιάκ

### The First Sunday of December or Κοιάκ

#### The Pauline Epistle

##### Romans 1:1-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! a It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For in the Gospel God's righteousness is

revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, “But the righteous shall live

by faith.”

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:1-18

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

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

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

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass,

its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Second Sunday of December or Κοιακ

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:1-4:3

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

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

*That you might be justified in your words,  
and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), “Let us do evil, that good may come?” Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

*There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes

through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it. It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The

law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-2:2

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen

and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light,

and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:30-34

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

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and

dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

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

## The Third Sunday of December or Κοιάκ

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:4-24

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

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them. He is the father of circumcision to those who not

only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had before he was circumcised. For the promise to Abraham and to his seed that he should be heir of the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations.” This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become “the father of many nations”, according to what had been spoken, “And so will your seed be.” He did not weaken in faith when he consid-

ered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also

able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was "credited to him for righteousness." Now, it was not written that "it was accounted to him" for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:35-50

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

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,  
the star of your god Rephan,  
the figures which you made to worship.*

*I will carry you a way beyond Babylon.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of

Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

*What kind of house will you build  
for me?’ says the Lord;*

*'or what is the place of my rest?  
Did not my hand make all these  
things?'*

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

## The Fourth Sunday of December or Κοιάκ

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 9:6-33

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

But it is not as though the word of God has come to nothing. For those of 'Israel' are not all Israel, And just because they are Abraham's seed, not all are children. But, "In Isaac, will your seed will called." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as descendants. For this is a word of promise, "At the appointed time I will come, and Sarah will have a son." Not only so, but Rebecca also conceived by our father Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might stand, not of works, but of him who calls), it was said to her, "The elder will serve the younger." Even as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

What then shall we say? That there is injustice with God? May it never be! For he said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." And so, it is not

about someone willing or running, but it depends on God who has mercy. Thus, the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose, I caused you to be raised up, so that I might show in you my power, and that my Name might be proclaimed in all the earth." And so, God has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. You will then ask me, "Why does God still find fault? Who can resist his will?"

But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath and also to make his power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory? That is us, whom he also called, not from

the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? As he says also in Hosea:

*I will call them 'my people,' which were not my people;  
and her 'beloved,' who was not beloved.*

*It will be that in the place where it was said to them,*

*'You are not my people,'*

*There they will be called 'children of the living God.'*

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

*If the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea,*

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

*For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness,*

*Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.*

As Isaias has said before:

*Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us a seed,*

*We would have become like Sodom,  
And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not in fact arrive at the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but by the works of the law! They stumbled over the stumbling stone, even as it is written:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and a rock of offense;*

*And no one who believes in him will be disappointed.*

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:24-3:3

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

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His

anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him. Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when

he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:8-22

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

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob

as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into Egypt where he died, along with our fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and

he was powerful in his words and actions.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of December or **Koīak**

### See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church?

I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

The Second Sunday of February or **Ugip**, page 183.

## December 1 (2) / Κοιάκ 4 through December 18 (19) / Κοιάκ 21

December 1 (2) / Κοιάκ 5 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

December or Κοιάκ tune. **Nahum the Prophet**. St. Victor the martyr. St. Isidore the martyr.

December 2 (3) / Κοιάκ 6 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

December or Κοιάκ tune. St. Patlas, the priest and martyr. **St. Abraham**, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 3 (4) / Κοιάκ 7 see January 27 (28) / Ιωψ 2, page 179.

December or Κοιάκ tune. St. Matthew the Poor.

December 4 (5) / Κοιάκ 8 see March 9 / Παρωχοτπ 13, page 199.

December or Κοιάκ tune. St. Theoclas, the 13<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Barbara and Juliana the martyrs. **Sts. Isi and Tecla** the martyrs. St. Samuel of El-Zalamun.

December 5 (6) / Κοιάκ 9 see January 17 (18) / Σωβ 22, page 172.

December or Κοιάκ tune. St. Peomin the confessor.

December 6 (7) / Κοιάκ 10 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100.

December or Κοιάκ tune. Translacion of the Relics of St. Severus of Antioch. **St. Nicholas of Myra**, the confessor.

December 7 (8) / Κοιάκ 11 see June 10 / Παωνε 16, page 256.

December or Κοιάκ tune. St. Pijimi

December 8 (9) / Κοιάκ 12 see May 15 / Παψδνс 20, page 231.

December or Κοιάκ tune. Commemoration of Archangel Michael. **St. Hedra the bishop** of Aswan. St. John the confessor. Assembly of a council in Rome in 249 A.D.

December 9 (10) / Κοιάκ 13 see September 23 (24) / Θοορτ 26, page 37.

December or Κοιάκ tune. Commemoration of the Conception of **St. Anna the mother of the Theotokos**. St. Barsanuphius the martyr. St. Apracuous the ascetic. Consecration of the Church of St. Misael the pilgrim.

December 10 (11) / Κοιάκ 14 see April 22 / Παρωχοτп 27, page 211.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Sts. Behnam and Sarah, his sister. St. Christodoulos the martyrs. Sts. Simon of Manoufia, Abba Hor, and Abba Menas the elder, the martyrs. St. Ammonias the bishop.

December 11 (12) / **Κοιάκ** 15 see November 13 (14) / **Δεορ** 17, page 86.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. St. Gregory the Armenian.

December 12 (13) / **Κοιάκ** 16 see November 23 (24) / **Δεορ** 27, page 98.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Gideon the Judge. Sts. Haroudia, Annanias, and Khousi the martyrs of Akhmim. The consecration of the Church of **St. James the Persian**.

December 13 (14) / **Κοιάκ** 17 see July 27 / **Ιεσορη** 3, page 287.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Luke the Styliste.

December 14 (15) / **Κοιάκ** 18 see October 19 (20) / **Παωπε** 22, page 57.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Translocation of the relics of **St. Titus the Apostle**. St. Hercules the martyrs and St. Philemon the presbyter.

December 15 (16) / **Κοιάκ** 19 see November 24 (25) / **Δεορ** 28, page 100.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. St. John the bishop of El-Borolos.

December 16 (17) / **Κοιάκ** 20 see September 5 (6) / **Θοορτ** 8, page 22.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Haggai the Prophet.

December 17 (18) / **Κοιάκ** 21 see December 31 (January 1) / **Τωβι** 5, page 146.

December or **Κοιάκ** tune. Commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Barnabas the Disciple**.

## December 18 (19) / **Κοιάκ** 22

December or **Κοιάκ** Tune  
**Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel**  
St. Anastasius, the 36<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 2:5-18

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

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are

sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name to my brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*  
and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery. Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham's seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 10:21-33

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

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?"

They replied, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you

to his house, and to listen to what you say." Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close

friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at

the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

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

## December 19 (20) / Κοιάκ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014

December 19 (20) / Κοιάκ 23 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

December or Κοιάκ tune. **King David.** St. Timothy the pilgrim.

## December 19 (20) / Κοιάκ 23 After A.D. 2014

December or Κοιάκ Tune

**King David**

St. Timothy the Pilgrim

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-40

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

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

and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:7-13

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

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard

of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 2:22-36

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

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

Brethren, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us even to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that from the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, [declaring] that his soul would not be left in hades and that his flesh would not see decay. God has raised this Jesus [back to life], and we are all witnesses of this fact. Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but as he himself declared:

*The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies a footstool  
for your feet.'*

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with assurance that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

## December 20 (21) / Κοιάκ 24 through December 23 (24) / Κοιάκ

27

December 20 (21) / Κοιάκ 24 see December 30 (31) / Τωβί 4, page 143.

December or Κοιάκ tune. **St. Ignatius, the Patriarch of Alexandria.** St. Philogonus the Patriarch of Alexandria.

December 21 (22) / Κοιάκ 25 see January 27 (28) / Ήμέρα 2, page 179.

December or Κοιάκ tune. Abba John Kame.

December 22 (23) / Κοιάκ 26 see January 25 (26) / Τωβί 30, page 177.

December or Κοιάκ tune. **St. Anastasia the martyr.** St. Juliana the martyr.

December 23 (24) / Κοιάκ 27 see November 24 (25) / Δεοπ 28, page 100.

December or Κοιάκ tune. Abba Bisadi the bishop and martyr.

## December 24 (25) / Κοιάκ 28

Annual Tune

**Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**  
The Martyrdom of 150 men and 24 women from Antipolis

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 3:15-4:18

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

Brethren, even speaking of a human example; when a person's will has been confirmed, it cannot be cancelled or altered (even though it is only human contract). Now, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. [Notice that] he does not say, "to seeds," as if there were many, but as of one, "to your seed," which is Christ. What I am saying is

this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years after the covenant previously confirmed by God in Christ, does not cancel it to make the promise of no effect. If the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from the promise; but in fact, God granted it to Abraham by way of a promise.

What then is the law about? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was established through the angels, by the hand of a mediator. Now, there is no mediator when there is only one party, and God is one. Therefore, is the law against God's [own] promises? Certainly not! If a law had been given which could make alive, then certainly, righteousness would have been from the law. But in fact, the Scriptures declared all things to be captive under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe, that is by faith in Jesus Christ. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, locked up to wait for the faith which would later on be revealed. Hence, the law was our tutor which was to bring us to Christ, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor, and you are all God's children, through faith in Christ Jesus! For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

Here is my point: as long as the heir is a child, he is no different than a slave, although being the owner of everything. The heir, is under tutors and trustees until the day appointed

by the father. Likewise, when we too were children, we were held in bondage under the elemental principles of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born to a woman, born under the law, so that he might redeem those who were under the law and so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" Now, you are no longer slaves, but children; and if children, then heirs of God through Christ.

In the past, as you did not know God, you were in bondage to those who by nature nare not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather come to be known by God, why do you return to the weak and miserable primordial forces whose slaves you want to be all over again? You observe days, months, seasons, and years... I am afraid concerning you, that I may have wasted my labor for you. I beg you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have never treated me wrongly, but you know that it was an illness that first gave me an opportunity to preach the Good News to you. Even though my condition was a trial for you, you did not despise nor reject me; but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus!

What has happened to the blessing you enjoyed? Indeed, I bear witness

to you that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me! And now, have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? Those people pursue you, but not for good. No, they desire to cut you off

from us, so that you might eagerly seek after them. But it is always good to be zealous in a good cause, not only when I am present with you!

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:1-14

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

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. These people are of the world. Therefore, they speak according to [the spirit of] the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us. Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we can discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who

loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:13-25

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

Now, Paul and his company set sail from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Continuing from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia. There, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down [to listen]. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent them a message, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak!”

So Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you [Gentiles] who fear God, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper when they stayed as aliens in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. For a period of about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, God gave them their

land as an inheritance, and this took about four hundred fifty years. After this, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin [who ruled] for forty years. After removing him, he raised up David to be their king, even bearing witness to him, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ From this man’s seed, God has brought salvation to Israel, according to his promise. This was before the coming of Jesus, when John first preached the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said, ‘Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.’

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

## December 25 (26) / Κοιακ 29

Joyful Tune  
The Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-2:4

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

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf  
and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*'Let all the angels of God worship  
him.'*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.a*

*But of the Son he says:*

*Your throne, O Godb, is unto ages  
of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scep-  
ter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and  
hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your  
companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the  
foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your  
hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.  
They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.  
Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies the foot-  
stool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we weretaught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we

escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:12-17

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For

we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:26-33a

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

Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to

you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every

Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to

the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. [As it is also written in the second psalm:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.]\**

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

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener, present in Ottawa and Coptic Reader.

## December 26 (27) / Κοιάκ 30

Joyful Tune

**The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**

St. John the Hegoumen

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 4:19-5:1

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

My little children, I am again in labor over you, until Christ is formed in you! I wish that I could be with you in person now, to change my tone, because I am confused about you. Tell me, since you desire to be under the law, {why} do you not listen to the law?

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the servant, and one by the free woman. However, the son by the servant was born according to the flesh, but the son by the free woman was born through a promise. These things contain an allegory which represents two covenants. One

is from Mount Sinai, bearing children to slavery, and that is Hagar. This Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and it corresponds to the Jerusalem that exists now, in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and the mother of us all. As it is written:

*Rejoice, you barren [woman] who bears no child;*

*Break forth and shout, you that do not travail.*

*For more are the children of the desolate than of her who has a husband.*

Brethren, we are, just as Isaac, children of promise, and it is now as

it was then: the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one who was born according to the Spirit. So it is even now! However, what does the Scripture say?

*"Throw out the servant-girl and her son, because the son of the servant will not inherit with the son of the free woman."*

And so, brethren, we are not children of a servant, but children of the free woman!

Therefore, stand firm in the freedom by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of slavery!

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:15-5:4

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God

whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:36-43

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

Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.'*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God.

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

## December 27 (28) / Ιωβί 1

Joyful Tune

The Third Day of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

**St. Stephen the Protodeacon and Protomartyr**

St. Lawindianus the Martyr

The 8000 Martyrs of Akhmim

## The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 11:16-12:12

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

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may

boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence

of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham's seed? So am I! Are they Christ's servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches. If anyone is weak, do I not feel weak too? If anyone stumbles, do I not burn with indignation? But if I must boast, I will boast about those things that have to do with my weakness.

The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed unto the ages, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor of King Aretas guarded the city in order to arrest me. But I was let down in a basket along the wall through a window, and this is how I escaped from his hands.

Without a doubt, it is not profitable for me to boast, but I will now discuss visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago, was caught up into the third heaven (whether [it was] in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows). [Yes], I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for anyone to utter. On behalf of such a person, I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. If my intention is to boast, I will not be foolish: I will speak the truth. But now, I shall stop, so that no one may think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me. Because of the tremendous greatness of these revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan that torments me, so that I would not be too exalted. Yes, I should not be too exalted! Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me, but he replied to me, "My

grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” And so, it is with joy that I would rather [find] glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

Therefore, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, necessities, persecutions, distresses, {all this} for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong! I have acted

foolishly in this boasting, but you compelled me! I should have been commended by you, because even though I am nothing, I am not in anything inferior to the very best apostles. Truly, the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all patience, in signs, wonders and mighty deeds.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

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

and:

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 6:1-7:2

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

Now, in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily service [of food distribution]. The Twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not appropriate for us to abandon the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will appoint them over this necessary task and devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

These words pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid their hands on them. Thus, the word of God spread and the number of disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem, and a large number of [Levitical] priests became obedient to the faith.

Full of faith and power, Stephen performed great wonders and signs

among the people. But some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) along with Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from Cilicia and Asia reacted. They began debating with Stephen but were not able to withstand the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke. Then, they secretly convinced [some] men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God!” Having stirred up the people, the presbyters and the scribes came against him and arrested him. They brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin and produced false witnesses who said, “This man is always uttering blasphemies against this holy place and the law. We have even heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us!” All the members of the council gazed at Stephen and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The high priest asked, “Are these things so?”

Stephen answered, “Brothers and fathers, hear me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham

when he was [still] in Mesopotamia,  
before he lived in Haran.

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

## December 28 (29) / Τωβι 2

See June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Joyful tune. **St. Theonas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Callinicus the bishop and martyr.

## December 29 (30) / Τωβι 3

Joyful Tune  
Commemoration of the Slaying of the Infants of Bethlehem

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 13:11-14:4

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

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you

may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

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

and:

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:22-30

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

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him

by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that

the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked

and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

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

## December 30 (31) / Τωβι 4

Joyful Tune  
St. John the Evangelist

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

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

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the

Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I

say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:6

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the

truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

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

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they

were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

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

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

## **December 31 (January 1) / Τωβι 5**

See November 21 (22) / Αεορ 25, page 95.

Joyful tune. St. Eugenius the soldier and martyr.

# January or ጽዕብ

## The First Sunday of January or ጽዕብ

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 15:4-19a

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

For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures' encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God. Now, I say that Christ was made a servant of the circumcision for the truth of God, so that he might confirm the promises given to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

*Therefore, I will give you praise among the Gentiles,*

*And sing to your Name.*

Again he says:

*Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.*

Again:

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!*

*Let all the peoples praise him.*

Again, Isaias says:

*There will be the root of Jesse,*

*He who arises to rule over the Gentiles;*

*In him the Gentiles will hope.*

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word

and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God's

Spirit.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 3:1-11

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

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him. Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is

right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 14:24-15:3

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

They passed through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. After preaching the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there, they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now fulfilled. When they arrived, they gathered the Church and reported all that God had accomplished with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers,

“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren.

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

## The Second Sunday of January or ጽዕብ

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Galatians 5:2-10

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

Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit to you! Yes, once again, I testify to everyone who receives circumcision that he is [now] under duty to accomplish the whole law! You who desire to be justified by the law are no longer under Christ: you have fallen away from grace. As for us, through the Spirit, we wait by faith for the hope of righteousness, since in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value,

only faith working through love. You were running so well! Who came to block your way so that you would not obey the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you! [Remember], a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough! I have confidence toward you in the Lord that you will take no other view; but whoever troubles you will bear his [own] judgment, whoever that [person] may be.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:18-24

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

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is

pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:22-29

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

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must

be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols,

from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these

things, it will be well with you. Farewell!"

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

## The Third Sunday of January or ጽዕብ

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:19-39

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

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of

two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of God and profanated the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified, and offended the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord", "I will repay." And also, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! But remember the early days when you had just been enlightened, how you endured a great struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were exposed to insults and oppressions; and at other times you stood with those who were treated in such a way. Indeed, you had compassion for me in my chains and joyfully accepted the seizure of your property, knowing that you have a better and enduring property in the heavens. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward. Indeed, you need endurance in order

to receive the promise after having done the will of God:

*In a very little while,  
he who comes will come and will not wait.*

*But the righteous will live by faith.*

*If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.*

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who believe and so are saved.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:11-21

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

Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have

boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 2:38-45

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

Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three

thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone’s need.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of January or ደዕብ

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 11:13-36

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

For I speak to you who are Gentiles: since I am an apostle to Gentiles, I glorify my ministry. May I somehow provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh so that I may save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciling of the world, what would their acceptance be, if not life from the dead? If the first fruit is holy, so is the whole batch. If the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them. Having become partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive

tree; do not boast over the branches! But if you boast, it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.” True; by their unbelief they were broken off, and you stand [in] by your faith. Do not be full of pride, but fear! Certainly, if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you! You see, then, both the goodness and the severity of God. Toward those who fell, severity [was shown]; but towards you, goodness, [that is], if you continue in his goodness.

Otherwise you also will be cut off. As for them, if they do not continue in their unbelief, they will be grafted in {again}, because God is able to graft them in again. If you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted against nature into a good olive tree, how much more will the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!

Indeed, I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brethren, so that you may not claim to be wiser than you are: a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles should come in. And thus all Israel will be saved. Even as it is written:

*There will come out of Zion the Deliverer,  
and he will turn away ungodliness  
from Jacob.*

*This is my covenant to them,  
When I will take away their sins.*

Concerning the Good News, they are enemies for your sake. But

concerning the election, they are beloved for the sake of the forefathers. Indeed, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable! In the past, you were disobedient to God, but now, you have obtained mercy by their disobedience. Likewise, they also have now been disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. For God has bound all men to disobedience, so that he might have mercy on all.

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and how unfathomable are his ways!

*For who has known the mind of the Lord?*

*Or who has been his counselor?*

*Or who has first given to the Lord so  
as to be paid back?*

Indeed, from him, and through him, and to him, are all things. To him be the glory unto the ages! Amen.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:9-21

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

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not

believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this

case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 11:2:18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!" But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had

looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, 'What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.' This was done three times, and everything was

drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the

Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

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

## The Fifth Sunday of January or ጽዕብ

### See The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

"Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!"

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and

not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among

you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived:

neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do."

The Second Sunday of February or **Աղօթ**, page 183.

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

## January 1 (2) / Տարի 6

Joyful Tune

### The Feast of the Circumcision

The Ascension of Elias into Heaven

St. Basil the Great, the bishop of Caesarea

St. Macianus, the 8<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Philippians 3:1-12

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

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord! To me, writing the same things to you is not tiresome - it is safe! Beware of the dogs, beware of evilworkers, beware of the false circumcision! We are 'circumcised' if we offer divine service to God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, although I myself could have confidence even in the flesh! If anyone thinks that he has {a reason to have} confidence in the flesh, I could even

more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews. As regards the law, I was a Pharisee; as far as zeal is concerned, I was persecuting the Church, and as for the righteousness which is based on the law, [I was] found blameless.

However, these things which I thought were gain to me, I have counted as loss for Christ! Yes, without a doubt, I consider all things as loss in view of the surpassing value

of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things. I consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own (from the law), but through faith in Christ (the righteousness which is from God by faith). Yes, may I know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the communion of his

sufferings, becoming conformed to his death, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. I am not saying that I have already obtained these things or that I am already made perfect; but I press on to take hold of [the prize] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:12-21

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the

Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:13-21

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

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;  
All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

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

## January 2 (3) / Ιωβι 7 through January 4 (5) / Ιωβι 9

January 2 (3) / Ιωβι 7 see November 13 (14) / Αεορτή 17, page 86.

Annual tune. St. Silvester, the Patriarch of Rome.

January 3 (4) / Ιωβι 8 see June 27 / Επημπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. Consecration of the Church of St. Macarius in his monastery. St. Andronicus, the 37<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. **St. Benjamin**, the 38<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 4 (5) / Ιωβι 9 see October 24 (25) / Παλαιόε 27, page 60.

Annual tune. St. Abraham the ascetic.

## January 5 (6) / Ιωβι 10

Annual Tune  
The Preparation Day (Paramouni) of the Feast of Theophany

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1-17a

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe's household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Kephas," or, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

Indeed, Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Good News.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:12-19

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received

from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 16:25-34

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

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. The

jailer, awaken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling

before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household!” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

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

## January 6 (7) / Ιωβι 11

Joyful Tune  
The Glorious Feast of Theophany

### The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”<sup>a</sup>

Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the ages have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will

also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

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

## The Pauline Epistle

Titus 2:11-3:7

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

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:5-21

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

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with

water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these

three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 18:24-19:6

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

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and

an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scrip-

tures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found

some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

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

## January 7 (8) / Ιωβι 12

Joyful Tune

**The Second Day of the Glorious Feast of Theophany**

Archangel Michael

St. Theodore the Martyr

St. Anatole the Martyr

## The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in

Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of his glory!

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:15b-22

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

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

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

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves

you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with

angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 8:26-39

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

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

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

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

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

## January 8 (9) / Ιωβι 13

Joyful Tune

### The Feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee

St. Theopholus the Monk

St. Demiana the Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:3-16

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

Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time;

but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And so, do not let sin rule in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace! What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be so! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

### **1 John 2:20-25**

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

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

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

## **The Praxis**

### **Acts 8:3-13**

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

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a

loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concern-

ing the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip

closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

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

## January 9 (10) / Ιωβι 14 through January 16 (17) / Ιωβι 21

January 9 (10) / Ιωβι 14 see May 15 / Παψλος 20, page 231.

Annual tune. **St. Arselidas the monk.** St. Maximus, the brother of St. Domatius.

January 10 (11) / Ιωβι 15 see September 5 (6) / Θορτ 8, page 22. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 18)

Annual tune. Obadiah the prophet.

January 11 (12) / Ιωβι 16 see April 22 / Παρμογτε 27, page 211.

Annual tune. **St. Philotheus the martyr.** St. John, the 48<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 12 (13) / Ιωβι 17 see June 10 / Παψνε 16, page 256.

Annual tune. **St. Domatius the brother of St. Maximus.** St. Yousab, bishop of Garga.

January 13 (14) / Ιωβι 18 see November 24 (25) / Δεοπ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. James the Syrian.

January 14 (15) / Ιωβι 19 see November 18 (19) / Δεοπ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Finding of the relics of Sts. Apahor, Pisoura, and their mother, Ampera. The thousands of martyrs of Antinou.

January 15 (16) / Ιωβι 20 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβι 1, page 137.

Annual tune. **St. Prochorus the Disciple.** Consecration of the Church of St. John Chrysostom. Sts. Bahn and Eklog, the martyrs.

January 16 (17) / Ιωβι 21 see April 26 / Παψλος 1, page 217.

Annual tune. **The Dormition of our Lady, the Holy Theotokos Mary.** St. Gelaria, daughter of Emperor Zeno. St. Gregory of Nyssa.

## January 17 (18) / ጂዢ 22

Annual Tune  
St. Anthony the Great

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 3:20-4:9

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

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known

to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-20

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

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

example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard

of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:19-26

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these

things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found

him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and

taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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

## January 18 (19) / Ιωβι 23 through January 20 (21) / Ιωβι 25

January 18 (19) / Ιωβι 23 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. **St. Timothy the Apostle.** St Cyril IV, the 110<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 19 (20) / Ιωβι 24 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

Annual tune. **St. Mary the ascetic.** St. Psati the presbyter.

January 20 (21) / Ιωβι 25 see May 15 / Παψλος 20, page 231.

Annual tune. **St. Peter of Scetis.** St. Askala the ascetic.

## January 21 (22) / Ιωβι 26

Annual Tune

**The Fourty-Nine Martyrs, the Elders of Scetis (Sheheet)**

St. Anastasia the Ascetic

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:3-14

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

Consider him who has endured such opposition from sinners, and you will not grow weary or faint in your souls. In your own battle against sin, you have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood. Have you forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children:

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord,  
do not faint when you are reproved  
by him;*

*for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens,*

*and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be

in subjection to the Father of {our} spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have

been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-19a

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a

Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 8:3-13

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

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice

sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

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

## January 22 (23) / Ιωβί 27 through January 24 (25) / Ιωβί 29

January 22 (23) / Ιωβί 27 see April 22 / Παρμοντε 27, page 211.

Annual tune. **St. Serapion the martyr.** Archangel Sourial. Translocation of the relics of St. Timothy the Apostle. St. Apepham the martyr.

January 23 (24) / Ιωβί 28 see November 11 (12) / Αεοπ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. **St. Clement of Rome,** the martyr. St. Kaou the martyr.

January 24 (25) / Ιωβί 29 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. **St. Eksanie the ascetic.** St. Seriakus the martyr.

## January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30

Annual Tune

Sts. Pistis, Helpis, Agape and Their Mother Sophia, the Martyrs

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 5:8b-21

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

Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth. Discern what is well-pleasing to the Lord! Have no fellowship with the vain works of darkness, but rather, expose them for what they are. It is a shame even to speak about the things which these people do in secret! But all things are revealed when they are exposed to the light. Therefore, he says:

*“Awake, you sleeper, arise from the dead,*

*and Christ will shine on you.”*

Therefore, watch carefully how you live, not as unwise, but as wise

[people], making good use of time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine – this is reckless living - but be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs! Sing and chant to the Lord in your heart; always giving thanks for everything in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, even to God the Father. [Finally], be in mutual subjection in the fear of God.

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:5-14

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

This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as jointheirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren,

tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.  
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled."

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

## The Praxis

Acts 21:5-14

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

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul's companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this

man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit: 'Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be

bound, but also to die in Jerusalem  
for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded,  
we became silent, except to say, “The  
Lord’s will be done!”

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

## January 26 (27) / Աշուբ 1

See November 5 (6) / Ձեօթ 9, page 77.

Annual tune. **Eccumenical Council of Constantinople.** Consecration of a Church dedicated to St. Peter the Seal of the Martyrs.

## January 27 (28) / Աշուբ 2

Annual Tune  
**St. Paul the Hermit**  
St. Longinus the Abbot

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 13:7-25

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

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy

place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to

share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great

shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

But I exhort you, brethren, take this word of exhortation well, for I have written to you briefly. Know that our brother Timothy has been freed. If he arrives soon, I will see you with him. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all! Amen.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves

with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by

Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 15:12-21

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

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

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

## January 28 (29) / Ապրիլ 3 through January 31 (February 1) / Ապրիլ 6

January 28 (29) / Ապրիլ 3 see May 15 / **Պատրիարք 20**, page 231.

Annual tune. St. James the ascetic.

January 29 (30) / Ապրիլ 4 see October 19 (20) / **Պատրիարք 22**, page 57.

Annual tune. St. Agabus the Disciple.

January 30 (31) / Ապրիլ 5 see October 24 (25) / **Պատրիարք 27**, page 60.

Annual tune. St. Agrippus, the 10<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Bishay and Apanoub. **Abba Apollo, the friend of Abba Abib.** St. Hippolytus of Rome.

January 31 (February 1) / Ապրիլ 6 see November 11 (12) / **Ձեօռ 15**, page 84.

Annual tune. Apparition of the body of St. Hippolytus, the Patriarch of Rome. **Sts. Apakir, John, the three virgins and their mother, the martyrs.**

## February or Ապրիլ

### The First Sunday of February or Ապրիլ

#### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church?

I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

## The Second Sunday of February or ቤዕት

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:1-17

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

This Melchizedek was king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham when he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and who blessed him. Moreover, Abraham gave a tenth part of all to this Melchizedek. By the interpretation of his name, he is, first, ‘king of saving justice’ and also king of Salem, that is, ‘king of peace’; without father, mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. He was made like the Son of God and remains a priest for all times. Now, consider how great this man was, since even the Patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth out from the best spoils! Indeed, the sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, although they too are Abraham’s descendants. But this man, who was not of the same descent, received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who has the promises! Now, nobody will question that the lesser is blessed by the greater. Here, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living.

We can say that through Abraham even Levi (who would [latter] receive tithes), had paid tithes, for he was still ‘in the body’ of his father when Melchizedek met him. Now, if perfection had come through the Levitical priesthood (under which the people received the law), what further need would there be for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek and not that of Aaron? And as the priesthood is being changed, there is also, by necessity, a change in the law as well. So our Lord, of whom these things were said, belongs to another tribe, one from which no one has served at the altar. It is clear indeed that our Lord has come from the tribe of Judah, about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. This is even more obvious if after the likeness of Melchizedek, another priest was to rise, one who was not made according to the law of a carnal commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life. As it is testified:

*You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchize-  
dek.*

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 John (all)

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

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess

that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Anti-christ. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:9-21 (except end)

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

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want

to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills.”

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

## The Third Sunday of February or **Uwip**

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 3:1-4:2

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

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus, who was faithful to the one who had appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s

house. Yet, Jesus is accounted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house! Every house is built by someone, but the one who built all things is God. Moses indeed was a

faithful servant in all of God's house, as a testimony for what would later on be spoken about. But Christ is faithful as a Son over his house and we are his house, if we firmly hold on to the confidence and pride of our hope until the end. Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says:

*Today if you will hear his voice,  
8do not harden your hearts, as in the  
rebellion,  
as in the day of the trial in the wil-  
derness,  
where your fathers tested me by prov-  
ing me,  
and saw my works for forty years.  
Therefore, I was displeased with that  
generation,  
and said, 'They always go astray in  
their heart,  
they did not know my ways;'  
As I swore in my wrath,  
'They will not enter into my rest.'*

Beware, brethren, for fear that one of you may have an evil and unbelieving heart that would fall away from the living God. Instead, encourage one another day by day, as long as it is called "today", for fear that one of

you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold on to our first confidence until the end, as long as these words apply:

*Today if you will hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts, as in the  
rebellion.*

But who is it that rebelled when they heard? Were they not all those that Moses had led out of Egypt? With whom was he displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest? Was it not to those who were disobedient? We see that they were not able to enter in because of [their] unbelief.

Let us beware, then! Since the promise remains, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also had the Good News preached to us, just as them, but they gained nothing from the word they heard because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 14-25

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

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten  
thousands of his holy ones,*

*to execute judgment on all,  
and to convict all the ungodly of all  
their works of ungodliness  
which they have done in an ungodly  
way,*

*and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God,

looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 20:7-16

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

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up

dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended

to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogylillum, and the day after we arrived in

Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of February or Κυριακή

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 1:1-16

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the

fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is, those who are from Chloe's household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Kephas," or, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

**James 1:13-21**

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

When temptations come, let no one say, "I am tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by

the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

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

## **The Praxis**

**Acts 8:5-13**

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

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed

and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had

amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of February or Uwip

See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do

you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers? But [I hear of] lawsuits among the brethren, and that in front of unbelievers! This is already a fault in you, that you have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? No, but you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and [you do] that against your brethren!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Some of you used to be like that, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, you were justified in the

Name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:14-18

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

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to

with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 9:3-9

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

As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

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

The Second Sunday of February or Ապրիլ, page 183.

## February 1 (2) / Ապրիլ 7 through February 28 (29) / Պարագառ 4

February 1 (2) / Ապրիլ 7 see June 27 / Եպիփ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. **St. Alexander**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Theodore, the 45<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 2 (3) / Ապրիլ 8 see January 1 (2) / Տօնի 6, page 158.

Joyful tune. **The Entrance of the Lord into the Temple**. St. Simeon the Elder. The 21 martyrs of Lybia.

February 3 (4) / Ապրիլ 9 see July 27 / Աւորի 3, page 287.

Annual tune. **St. Barsuma**, the father of the Syrian monks. St. Paul the Syrian, the martyr.

February 4 (5) / Ապրիլ 10 see June 29 / Եպիփ 5, page 266.

Annual tune. **St. James the Son of Alphaeus**, St. Justus, the martyr. St. Isidor of Pelusim. St. Philo, the bishop of Persia, and the martyr.

February 5 (6) / Ապրիլ 11 see November 25 (26) / Ճեզով 29, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Fabianus, the Patriarch of Rome. Abba John, the 94<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 6 (7) / Ապրիլ 12 see May 15 / Պատանց 20, page 231.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of Archangel Michael. **St. Gelsius the monk**.

February 7 (8) / Ապրիլ 13 see April 22 / Պարսօնտե 27, page 211.

Annual tune. Sts. Sergius of Atrię, his father, mother, sister, and companions, the martyrs. St. Timothy III, 32<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 8 (9) / Ապրիլ 14 see November 13 (14) / Ճեզով 17, page 86.

Annual tune. **St. Severus of Antioch**. St. James, the 50<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

February 9 (10) / Ապրիլ 15 see June 10 / Պատոնց 16, page 256.

Annual tune. **Zaccariaias the prophet**. Consecration of the first Church for the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia. St. Pahnoutius.

February 10 (11) / Ապրիլ 16 see September 23 (24) / Թօօրդ 26, page 37.

Annual tune. St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist.

February 11 (12) / Ապրիլ 17 see April 22 / Պարսօնտե 27, page 211.

Annual tune. St. Menas the monk.

February 12 (13) / Ապրիլ 18 see November 13 (14) / Ճեզով 17, page 86.

Annual tune. St. Militius, the confessor and Patriarch of Antioch. Consecration of the Church of St. Paul the Simple.

February 13 (14) / **Ապրիլ** 19 see May 15 / **Պաշտոն** 20, page 231.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Martianus of Athens to Antioch

February 14 (15) / **Ապրիլ** 20 see November 25 (26) / **Ճեզով** 29, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Peter II, 21<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Basil, Theodore, and Timothy of Alexandria, the martyrs.

February 15 (16) / **Ապրիլ** 21 see June 29 / **Էպիփ** 5, page 266.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Onesimus, the slave of Philemon, the martyr. St. Gabriel, the 57<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Zachariah, the bishop of Sakha.

February 16 (17) / **Ապրիլ** 22 see November 24 (25) / **Ճեզով** 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Maruta.

February 17 (18) / **Ապրիլ** 23 see April 22 / **Պարսութե** 27, page 211.

Annual tune. St. Eusebius, son of St. Basilides, the martyr.

February 18 (19) / **Ապրիլ** 24 see November 24 (25) / **Ճեզով** 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Agapius the bishop. Sts. Timothy and Matthias, the martyrs.

February 19 (20) / **Ապրիլ** 25 see July 14 / **Էպիփ** 20, page 284.

Annual tune. Sts. Archippus, Philemon, and Lycia, the new martyrs. St. Quona and St. Menas, the martyrs.

February 20 (21) / **Ապրիլ** 26 September 5 (6) / **Թօռութ** 8, page 22. (Previous Kitchener had Tho-out 28)

Annual tune. Hosea the prophet. St. Zadok and his Persian companions, the martyrs.

February 21 (22) / **Ապրիլ** 27 see November 13 (14) / **Ճեզով** 17, page 86.

Annual tune. St. Eustathius the patriarch of Antioch. St. Perpetua the Martyr of North Africa.

February 22 (23) / **Ապրիլ** 28 see July 14 / **Էպիփ** 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Thedorus the Roman.

February 23 (24) / **Ապրիլ** 29 see December 30 (31) / **Ջաման** 4, page 143.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection. **Տ. Պոլքարպ  
the bishop of Smyrna**, the martyr.

February 24 (25) / **Ապրիլ** 30 see May 27 / **Պաշտոն** 2, page 240.

Annual tune. The finding of the head of St. John the Baptist.

February 25 (26) / **Պարսութե** 1 see November 18 (19) / **Ճեզով** 22, page 90.

Annual tune. St. Narcissus the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Alexandrus the martyr. Anba Marcu-ra.

February 26 (27) / Παριγότπ 2 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Macrobius the bishop and martyr.

February 27 (28) / Παριγότπ 3 see November 25 (26) / Αεορ 29, page 103. (Fr. Athanasius

Iskander reports this as “see September 13 (14) / Θοορτ 16, page 25”, but St. Shenouda’s Society, and the Ottawa Lectionary agree with November 25 (26).

Annual tune. St. Cosmas, the 58<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Porphyry the martyr. St. Hadid the preist.

February 28 (29) / Παριγότπ 4 see November 5 (6) / Αεορ 9, page 77.

Annual tune. Council on the Island of Bani-Omar. St. Haboulyous the prince and martyr.

## February 29 / Κορχι ḥὰβοτ (The Little Month) 6

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 3:8-17

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

But now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God’s elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against

anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 5:16-20

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

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 11:12b-18

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

These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed

baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

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

## **March or Παριγότπ**

### **March 1 / Παριγότπ 5 through March 8 / Παριγότπ 12**

March 1 / Παριγότπ 5 see November 24 (25) / **Δεορ** 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Serapamon the ascetic. St. Peter the priest and martyr. St. Eudexia the martyr.

March 2 / Παριγότπ 6 see November 23 (24) / **Δεορ** 27, page 98.

Annual tune. St. Dioscorus the new martyr. St. Theodosius the bishop.

March 3 / Παριγότπ 7 see November 18 (19) / **Δεορ** 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Sts. Philemon and Apollonius the martyrs. St. Mary of Israel, the martyr.

March 4 / Παριγότπ 8 see June 29 / **Επηπ** 5, page 266.

Annual tune. St. Matthias the Apostle. St. Julian, the 11<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Arianus the martyr.

March 5 / Παριγότπ 9 see May 15 / **Παψλνс** 20, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Koran. Sts. Abrianus, Amarata his wife, Eusebius, Armanius, and the forty after them, the martyrs.

March 6 / Παριγότπ 10 see September 14 (15) / **Θօօրт** 17, page 27.

Palm tune. The Appearance of the Glorious Cross.

March 7 / Παριγότπ 11 see September 18 (19) / **Θօօրт** 21, page 35.

Annual tune. St. Basil the bishop and martyr.

March 8 / Παριγότπ 12 see November 25 (26) / **Δεορ** 29, page 103.

Annual tune. Monthly Commemoration of Archangel Michael. St. Demetrius' virginity revealed. St. Malachius the martyr. St. Glathinos the martyr.

## March 9 / Παρασκευή 13

Annual Tune.

**St. Dionysius, the 14<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria**

The return of Abba Macarius the Great and Abba Macarius of Alexandria

The Forty Matrys of Sebastia

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

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

I, Paul, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ, as one who is humble among you in your presence but bold in my absence. Yes, I beg that I should not have to be bold when I am actually with you by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to overthrow strongholds, to cast down fantasies and every lofty thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Once you have given your complete obedience, we are prepared to chastise any disobedience. Do you look at things only as they appear in your presence? If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, let such a person reconsider this, that, we belong to Christ as much as he does! Even though I should boast some more about our authority, (which the Lord gave for building you up, and

not for casting you down), would that not be a shame? May I not appear to desire to terrify you by my letters! Some people say, “His letters are profound and strong, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is worthless.” Let such people consider this: that what we are in word by letters (when we are absent), we are exactly the same in actions when we are present. We are not venturing to rank or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But as they measure themselves by their own standards and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. However, we will not boast beyond proper limits, only

within the boundaries which God has appointed to us, which reach even to you. Indeed, we do not stretch ourselves too much, as though we did not reach to you. For we even reached as far as to you with the Good News of Christ, not boasting beyond proper limits in the work of others, but having hope that as your faith grows, our [missionary] field among you will

be greatly enlarged. This way, we will be able to preach the Good News even to those areas that are beyond you, in order not to boast in what others have already accomplished. But “he who boasts, let him boast in

the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but it is the Lord who gives [him] approval.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God’s will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings

but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false

prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

**March 10 / Παριγοτπ 14 through March 24 / Παριγοτп 28**

March 10 / Παριγοтп 14 see September 18 (19) / Θοοтп 21, page 35.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the martyr.

March 11 / **Παριγότπ 15** see January 25 (26) / **Τωβί 30**, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Sarah of Upper Egypt. St. Elias of Hnes.

March 12 / **Παριγότπ 16** see November 25 (26) / **Δεορ 29**, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Mikhail, the 46<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 13 / **Παριγότπ 17** see November 24 (25) / **Δεορ 28**, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Lazarus, the friend of Christ, the bishop of Cyprus. St. George the ascetic martyr. St. Sidhom Bishai the martyr. St. Basil, bishop of Jerusalem.

March 14 / **Παριγότπ 18** see July 14 / **Επηπ 20**, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Isidore the martyr.

March 15 / **Παριγότπ 19** see December 27 (28) / **Τωβί 1**, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Aristobulus the Disciple. Sts. Alexander, Agabius, Timol, Dionysius, and Romulus, the martyrs.

March 16 / **Παριγότπ 20** see November 25 (26) / **Δεορ 29**, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Michael II, the 56<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The Raising of Lazarus from the dead.

March 17 / **Παριγότπ 21** see August 6 / **Ιεσορή 13**, page 308.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. Dwelling of our Lord in Bethany. Consultation of the chief priests to put Lazarus to death.

March 18 / **Παριγότπ 22** see June 27 / **Επηπ 3**, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Cyril of Jerusalem. St. Michael the bishop of Nakada. Joseph of Arimathea.

March 19 / **Παριγότπ 23** see September 5 (6) / **Θοορτ 8**, page 22.

Annual tune. Daniel the prophet.

March 20 / **Παριγότπ 24** see November 25 (26) / **Δεορ 29**, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Macarius, the 59<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Apparition of the Theotokos at Zeitoun.

March 21 / **Παριγότπ 25** see October 11 (12) / **Πλωπε 14**, page 54.

Annual tune. St. Oneishorus the Disciple. St. Matthias, the 100<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 22 / **Παριγότπ 26** see January 25 (26) / **Τωβί 30**, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Eupraxia, a virgin of Rome. St. Peter VI, the 104<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 23 / **Παριγότπ 27** see October 24 (25) / **Πλωπε 27**, page 60.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the Crucifixion. Abba Macarius the Great. St. Domicos the martyr.

March 24 / **Παριγότπ 28** see September 13 (14) / **Θοορτ 16**, page 25.

Annual tune. Emperor Constantine the Great. St. Peter VII, the 109<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Abba Sarapamon.

## March 25 / Παρμεγοτπ 29

Joyful Tune

Feast of the Annunciation of the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:1-31

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

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), "Let us do evil, that good may come?" Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously

warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*  
*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

*There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that

by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it. It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his

righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-2:6

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our

communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have com-

munion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice

for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:23-34

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

But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: 'Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other

pushed Moses away, saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?

'Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the

affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

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

## March 26 / Παριεστή 30 through March 31 / Παριεστή 5

March 26 / Παριεστή 30 see December 18 (19) / Κοιάκ 22, page 123.

Annual tune. Commemoration of Archangel Gabriel. Transfer of the Relics of St. James the Persian. Samson the Judge.

March 27 / Παριεστή 1 see May 15 / Παψλάς 20, page 231.

Annual tune. **St. Silvanus the monk.** The Arabs of Upper Egypt attacked the desert of Scetis. Aaron the prophet.

March 28 / Παριεστή 2 see July 14 / Επηπ 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Christopher, the martyr. Pope Youannis IX, the 81<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 29 / Παριεστή 3 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. John the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Michael, the 71<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

March 30 / Παριεστή 4 see November 18 (19) / Δεορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Sts. Victor, Decius, Eirene the Virgin, and those with them, the martyrs.

March 31 / Παριεστή 5 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual utne. Ezekiel the Prophet. St. Hepartius the bishop of Gangra, the martyr.

## April or Παριούτε

### April 1 / Παριούτε 6 through April 17 / Παριούτε 22

April 1 / Παριούτε 6 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30, page 177.

Annual tune. Commemoration of the appearance of the Lord to St. Thomas. **St. Mary of Egypt.**

April 2 / Παριούτε 7 see September 5 (6) / Θοούτ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. St. Joachim, the father of the Theotokos. St. Macrobius. Sts. Agapious, Theodora and Metruf.

April 3 / Παριούτε 8 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30, page 177.

Annual tune. Agape, Eirence, Shiona, the virgin martyrs. The One Hundred and Fifty Martyrs at the hand of the king of Persia.

April 4 / Παριούτε 9 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100 (according to an Arabic

Lectionary. The Ottawa lectionary and St. Shenouda's Society have: see January 17 (18) / Ιωβί 22, page 172.)

Annual tune. St. Zosimus the priest. Commemoration of the miracle at the hand of Pope Shenouti I, the 55<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 5 / Παριούτε 10 see May 15 / Παψλος 20, page 231.

Annual tune. St. Isaac, the disciple of Abba Apollo. St. Gabriel II, the 70<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 6 / Παριούτε 11 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Theodora the virgin. St. John, the bishop of Gaza.

April 7 / Παριούτε 12 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, the bishop of Jerusalem. St. Antonios, the bishop of Tamoui.

April 8 / Παριούτε 13 see November 18 (19) / Αεορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Sts. Joshua and Joseph, the martyrs. Dionisa the Deaconess and Medius the martyrs. St. Youanni 17<sup>th</sup>, the 105<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 9 / Παριούτε 14 see November 25 (26) / Αεορ 29, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Maximus, the 15<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandira.

April 10 / Παριούτε 15 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβί 1, page 137.

Annual tune. The Consecration of the altar for St. Nicholas of Myra. The Consecration of the Church of St. Agabus the Disciple. St. Alexandra the Empress. St. mari VI, the 101<sup>st</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 11 / **Παριογτε** 16 see December 30 (31) / **Τωβι** 4, page 143.

Annual tune. St. Antipas, the bishop of Pergamos, the martyr. The ascension of Enoch the prophet to heaven.

April 12 / **Παριογτε** 17 see June 29 / **Επηπ** 5, page 266.

Annual tune. St. James the son of Zebedee, the Apostle. St. Nicodemus.

April 13 / **Παριογτε** 18 see April 22 / **Παριογτε** 27, page 211.

Annual tune. St. Arsenius the slave of St. Sousevouos, the martyr.

April 14 / **Παριογτε** 19 see November 24 (25) / **Δεορ** 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Simeon the Armenian, the bishop of Persia, the martyr. St. John the martyr. Vizir abu Elala Fahd ibn Ibrahim an dhis companions, the martyrs. David the monk and martyr.

April 15 / **Παριογτε** 20 see July 14 / **Επηπ** 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Paphnuti the martyr.

April 16 / **Παριογτε** 21 see September 18 (19) / **Θοορτ** 21, page 35.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Hierotheos of Athens.

April 17 / **Παριογτε** 22 see November 25 (26) / **Δεορ** 29, page 103.

Annual tune. St. Isaac of Hourin. St. Alexander I, the 19<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Mark II, the 49<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Michael II, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## April 18 / **Παριογτε** 23

Annual Tune  
Daniel the Prophet  
**St. George the Prince of the Martyrs**

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

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

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be

conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified.

Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or

anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter." No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is

ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If

anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 16:16-34

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

As we were going to prayer, it happened that we encountered a certain girl who had a spirit of divination and who brought much gain to her masters by fortune telling. As she followed Paul and us, she cried out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us a way of salvation!" And she did this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned back and said to the spirit, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, I order you to come out of her!" And the spirit came out that very moment. But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These Jewish men are causing disturbance in our city! They teach customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or observe!"

When the crowd also rose up against them, the magistrates had them stripped and flogged. After

giving them a severe flogging, the magistrates had them thrown into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a command, he threw them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But when it was about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. The jailer, awaken from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, began to draw his sword and he was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

Having asked for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought

them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household!” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all those who were in his household.

Late as it was, the jailer washed their wounds and was immediately baptized, he and his entire household. He took them into his house and set food before them. He was filled with joy for believing in God, along with his entire household.

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

## April 19 / Παρμούτε 24 through April 21 / Παρμούτε 26

April 19 / Παρμούτε 24 see July 14 / Επηπ 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti I, the 55<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Sina the soldier and martyr.

April 20 / Παρμούτε 25 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβί 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Sarah and her two sons, the martyrs. Sts. Paphnouti the Hermit, Theodore the Worshipper, and the One Hundred martyrs.

April 21 / Παρμούτε 26 see July 14 / Επηπ 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Souseios the martyr. St. John VII, the 78<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## April 22 / Παρμούτε 27

Annual Tune

**St. Victor, the son of Romanus, the Martyr**

St. Joachim, the Father of the Theotokos

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:18-30

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

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's

children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the

children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows

the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

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

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 19:23-41

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials

of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other

matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not

be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

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

## April 23 / Παρμοντε 28 through April 24 / Παρμοντε 29

April 23 / Παρμοντε 28 see November 21 (22) / Δεοп 25, page 95.

Annual tune. St. Milius, the ascetic martyr.

April 24 / Παρμοντε 29 see December 27 (28) / Ιωві 1, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Erastus the Disciple. St. Acacius the bishop of Jerusalem.

## April 25 / Παρμοнте 30

Annual Tune  
St. Mark the Evangelist and Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Timothy 3:10-4:18

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

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have

known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort,

with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing. Do your utmost to visit me soon, because Demas, having loved this present world, has left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens went

to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is still with me. Bring Mark along with you for he is helpful to me for service. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, as well as the books, especially the parchments. Alexander, the metal-worker did much evil to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. Beware of him, for he greatly opposed our teachings.

At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and heard by all the Gentiles. I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion and the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-14

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

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with

eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves

with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect,

restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:36-16:5

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

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!” Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and

sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lysstra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he

took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, since all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them the decisions which had been ordained by the apostles and presby-

ters who were at Jerusalem, so that they might obey. As a result, the Churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day.

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

## April 26 / Παρασκευή 1

Annual Tune  
The Nativity of the Theotokos

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:1-12

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

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

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

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of

this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into

the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 John (all)

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

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess

that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Anti-christ. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **April 27 / Παρασκευή 2 through April 30 / Παρασκευή 5**

April 27 / Παρασκευή 2 see July 27 / Κατάσταση 3, page 287.

Annual tune. Job the Righteous.

April 28 / Παρασκευή 3 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβ 1, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Jason the Disciple. St. Optimus the priest. St. Gabriel IV, the 86<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 29 / Παρασκευή 4 see November 25 (26) / Αθανάσιος 29, page 103.

Annual tune. St. John I, the 29<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. John V, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

April 30 / Παρασκευή 5 see September 5 (6) / Θεοφάνεια 8, page 22.

Annual tune. Jeremias the Prophet.

# May or Παύλος

## The Third Sunday of May or Παύλος

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-10

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to

God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:15-5:4

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God

whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:44-52

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

The next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that God's word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the

Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.'*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord's word was spread throughout

the entire region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city. They instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their borders. So they shook off the dust of their feet against these people and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy with the Holy Spirit.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of May or Παύλος

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is

assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a

time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting

by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John 1-8

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have

borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:2-18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into

the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!"

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I

was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied

me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

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

## The Fifth Sunday of May or Παύλος

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 14:18-25

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they

hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you

are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:1-8

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’

content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous one who does not resist you.

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 24:1-9

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

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections

among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true.

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

## May 1 / Παψάνς 6 through May 4 / Παψάνς 9

May 1 / Παψάνς 6 see April 18 / Παριούτε 23, page 208.

Annual tune. St. Isaac El-Defrawi the martyr. St. Macarius of Alexandria. St. Paphnouti of El-Bandara the presbyter.

May 2 / Παψάνς 7 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Athanasius the Apostolic, the 20<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 3 / Παψάνς 8 see April 18 / Παριούτε 23, page 208.

Annual utne. St. John of Senhout, the martyr. St. Daniel, the Hegoumen of Scetis (Sheheet).

May 4 / Παψάνς 9 see September 13 (14) / Θοορτ 16, page 25.

Annual tune. St. Helena the Empress. St. John XI, the 89<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Gabriel VIII, the 97<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## May 5 / ΠαρασΚΕΥΗ 10

Annual Tune

Commemoration of the Three Holy Youths in the Fiery Furnace

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

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

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

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

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

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-19a

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

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a

Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 19:23-41

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there

danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did

not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell

down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

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

## May 6 / Παρασκευή 11 through May 14 / Παρασκευή 19

May 6 / Παρασκευή 11 see November 24 (25) / Δεοπ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Theoclia the wife of St. Justus, the martyr. St. Paphnouti the bishop.

May 7 / Παρασκευή 12 see November 13 (14) / Δεοπ 17, page 86.

Annual tune. The consecration of the Church of St. Demiana. The Relocation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom. The appearance of the Cross of Light above Golgotha. St. Mark VII, the 106<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Teacher (Mo'allem) Malati the martyr.

May 8 / Παρασκευή 13 see January 17 (18) / Τωβί 22, page 172.

Annual tune. St. Arsanius the tutor of the Emperor's children.

May 9 / Παρασκευή 14 see July 27 / Ηεσορή 3, page 287.

Annual tune. St. Pakhom, the father of the Cenobitic Life. St. Epimachus of Pelusium, the martyr.

May 10 / Παρασκευή 15 see October 9 (10) / Παρασκευή 12, page 52.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Zealot, the Apostle. The Four Hundred Martyrs in Dandara. St. Menas the Deacon.

May 11 / **Παψάνς** 16 see December 30 (31) / **Τωβί** 4, page 143.

Annual tune. St. John the Evangelist.

May 12 / **Παψάνς** 17 see November 24 (25) / **Δεορ** 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Epiphanius the bishop of Cyprus.

May 13 / **Παψάνς** 18 see October 24 (25) / **Παψπε** 27, page 60.

Annual tune. St. George, the friend of St. Abraam. The Commemoraiton of Pentecost.

May 14 / **Παψάνς** 19 see January 17 (18) / **Τωβί** 22, page 172.

Annual tune. Abba Isaac, the presbyter of the Cells. St. Isidore of Antioch, the martyr.

## May 15 / **Παψάνς** 20

Annual Tune  
Abba Ammonius the Anchorite

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:4-23

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

When one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything: only God makes it grow. Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor. Indeed, we are God’s coworkers! You are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to

me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person’s work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone’s work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone’s work is burned, it

will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.

Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him because God's sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness

with God. As it is written, "He has taken the wise in their craftiness." And also, "The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless." Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:5-14

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

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who

called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you; and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love! Peace be to you all who are in Christ Jesus! Amen.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 18:24-19:6

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

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

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

## May 16 / Παρουσία 21 through May 18 / Παρουσία 23

May 16 / Παρουσία 21 see July 27 / Ηεσορή 3, page 287.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. St. Marcian.

May 17 / Παρουσία 22 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβί 1, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Andronicus the Disciple

May 18 / Παρασκευή 23 see April 25 / Παρασκευή 30, page 214.

Annual tune. St. Junia the Disciple. St. Julian and his mother, the martyrs.

## May 19 / Παρασκευή 24

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Entry of the Lord into the Land of Egypt

Habakkuk the Prophet

St. Bashnouna El-Makari the monk and martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 2:1-22

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

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by your-

selves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called “uncircumcision” by what is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so

that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are

fellow-citizens with the saints, and member's of God's household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:7-19

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

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father

has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:20-34

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

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: 'Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: 'Who

made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

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

May 20 / Παρασκευή 25

See November 21 (22) / Δεοπ 25, page 95.

Annual tune. St. Colluthus of Antioche the martyr. Ibrahim El-Gohari.

## May 21 / ΠαρασΚΕΥΗ 26

Annual Tune  
St. Thomas the Apostle

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

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

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,  
Their words to the ends of the world.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

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

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the

Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

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

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms

from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from

them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

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

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

## May 22 / Παψάνς 27 through May 26 / Παψνε 1

May 22 / Παψάνς 27 see November 24 (25) / Αθεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. John II, the 13<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandira. St. Lazarus, the Beloved of the Lord.

May 23 / Παψάνς 28 see November 13 (14) / Αθεορ 17, page 86.

Annual tune. The relocation of the relics of St. Epiphanius.

May 24 / Παψάνς 29 see July 27 / Ηεσορη 3, page 287.

Annual tune. St. Simon the Styliste.

May 25 / Παψάνς 30 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Michael I, the 68<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Phorus the Disciple.

May 26 / Παψνε 1 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβι 1, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Carpus the Disciple. Consecration of the Church of Sst. Leontius of Tripoli. St. Cosman and his companions, the martyrs. St. Epipam the soldier. St. Zikam the martyr.

## May 27 / Παρωνε 2

Annual Tune  
Discovery of the Relics of St. John the Baptist  
St. John VIII, the 107<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-10

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to

God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

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

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

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

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

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

and:

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

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 13:25-33

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

As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one

comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.' Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those

among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God

raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.'*

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

## May 28 / Παρωνε 3 through May 31 / Παρωνε 6

May 28 / Παρωνε 3 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. **St. Alladius the bishop and martyr.** Anba Abraam the bishop of Fayum. St. Cosmas, the 44<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecration of the Church of St. George in the city of Burma. St. Martha the Egyptian.

May 29 / Παρωνε 4 see November 11 (12) / Αεορ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. **St. Shenousi the martyr.** Sts. Abamoun and Sophia the martyrs. St. John of Heraclia the martyr. St. Apahor the martyr. St. John VIII, the 8<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

May 30 / Παρωνε 5 see January 17 (18) / Ιωβι 22, page 172.

Annual tune. **St. James the Confessor.** Sts. Pishoy and Peter ,the martyrs. Consecraiton of the Church of St. Victor.

May 31 / Παρωνε 6 see July 14 / Επηπ 20, page 284.

Annual tune. St. Theodore the monk and martyr. St. Dydimus the Dean of the Catechetical School of Alexandria.

## June or Πανε

### The First Sunday of June or Πανε

#### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 15:13-29

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

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God's Spirit. And so, from Jerusalem, and as far as Illyricum, I have fully preached the Good News of Christ. Yes, I have made it my goal to preach the Good

News where Christ was not already called upon, in order not to build on someone else's foundation. But, as it is written:

*Those to whom no tidings of him came will see.*

*Those who have not heard will understand.*

For this reason, I was hindered many times from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any place in these regions and since I had for many years a longing to come to you, I [write that I] will come to you whenever I travel to Spain, in order to be helped on my way there by you, and first of all to enjoy your company for a while. But now, I want you to know that I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints. It has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. Yes, it has been their good pleasure, as they are in debt to them. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, they owe it to them to be of

service in material things. After I accomplish this and deliver this harvest to them, I will go to Spain by your way. I know that, when I come

to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the Good News of Christ.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-9

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation

which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled

their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar

Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, “You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!”

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

## The Second Sunday of June or Πατρινή

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

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

However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of

this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to

nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers

of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

*Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,  
Which did not enter into the heart of man,  
These God has prepared for those who love him.*

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from

God, so that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God's Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ!

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:1-8

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

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted

to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are

yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 14:8-22

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

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother's womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" They called Barnabas "Jupiter," and Paul "Mercury," because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, "Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who

made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself without witness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that "we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God."

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

## The Third Sunday of June or Πατρινή

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

And so, let everyone think of us as Christ's servants, and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful! But as far as I am concerned, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or according to human judgment. Yes, I do not [even] judge my own self, for I know nothing against myself. Yet, I am not justified by this, but the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, [that is] until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of every heart. Then, each person will receive due praise from God.

Brethren, I have figuratively applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that in us you might learn the meaning of 'not beyond the things which are written', so that none of you will be puffed up against another. Indeed, who makes you different? And what do you have that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [But] you are already filled! You have already

become rich and you have come to rule apart from us! Yes, and I wish that you would really be rulers, so that we also might reign with you. I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked, beaten and [we] wander from place to place! We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

**2 Peter 1:19-2:9**

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

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

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

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 17:1-12

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

After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul gave them his attention and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. He explained and showed that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and said, “This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ.”

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assailing the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city officials, shouting, “These people who have turned the

world upside down have also come here, and Jason has received them! All of them act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!” The multitude and the city officials were troubled when they heard these things. After receiving a bond from Jason and the others, they let them go.

At once, the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now, the Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men.

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

## The Fourth Sunday of June or Παύνε

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 4:2-18

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

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

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, “if he comes to you, receive him”), and also Jesus

who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, “Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it.”

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-20

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

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the

Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

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

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

## The Praxis

Acts 18:1-11

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

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There, he met a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of

Pontus by race. He and his wife Priscilla had recently arrived from Italy because Claudius had ordered all

the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and since he practiced the same trade (they were tent makers), he lived and worked with them. Every Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was dedicated to preaching, bearing witness to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Then, when the Jews opposed Paul and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and told them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!”

He departed and went into the house of a man named Titus Justus, a

[Gentile] devoted to God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Now, Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his entire household; and many Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized. One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth.

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

## The Fifth Sunday of June or Παύνε

See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to

those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to

God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John 1-8

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have

borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:2-18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!"

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, 'What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.' This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I

was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

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

The Fifth Sunday of May or Παριστάνεται, page 223.

## June 1 / Παριστάνεται 7 through June 9 / Παριστάνεται 15

June 1 / Παριστάνεται 7 see April 18 / Παριστάνεται 23, page 208.

Annual tune. St. Episkhailon the martyr.

June 2 / Παριστάνεται 8 see May 19 / Παριστάνεται 24, page 234.

Annual tune. **Dedication of the Church of the All-Holy and Blessed Virgin.** Sts.

Amanda nad her children, the martyrs. St. George the new martyr.

June 3 / Παριστάνεται 9 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual Tune. **Samuel the Prophet.** St. Lucilianus the martyr. Translocation of the relics of St. Mercurius to Egypt.

June 4 / Πασχα 10 see November 18 (19) / Αεορτή 22, page 90.

Annual Tune. **St. Eudaemon** the martyr. The closure of all Pagan temples by Constantine. St. John XVI, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. The Ordination of St. Demetrios II as the 111st Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 5 / Πασχα 11 see April 22 / Παριστάτη 27, page 211.

Annual tune. **St. Cladius** Stratelates the martyr. Consecration of the Church of the Forty Martyrs in Alexandria.

June 6 / Πασχα 12 see November 8 (9) / Αεορτή 12, page 80.

Annual tune. Monthly commemoration of **Archangel Michael.** St. Justis, the 7<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Cyril II, the 67<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Euphemia.

June 7 / Πασχα 13 see August 26 / Κοντά Νάζωτ 3, page 330.

Annual Tune. Commemoration of **Archangel Gabriel.** St John, the bishop of Jerusalem.

June 8 / Πασχα 14 see November 24 (25) / Αεορτή 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St John XIX, the 113<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Sts. Apakir, John, Ptolemy and Philip the martyrs.

June 9 / Πασχα 15 see November 11 (12) / Αεορτή 15, page 84.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist during the tenth year of St. Cyril VI. Consecration of the Church of Abba Menas at Maryut.

## June 10 / Πασχα 16

Annual Tune  
St. Onuphrius (Abba Nofer)

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of

lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliver-

ance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise, for God had made provision

for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-20

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

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he

prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering

will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 18:24-19:6

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

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

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

## June 11 / Παρωνε 17 through June 23 / Παρωνε 29

June 11 / Παρωνε 17 After A.D. 1968 see January 17 (18) / Ιωβι 22, page 172.

Annual tune. Return of the relics of **St. Mark the Evangelist** in A.D. 1968. St. Latsoun the monk.

June 12 / Παρωνε 18 see November 25 (26) / Αθορ 29, page 103.

Annual tune. **St. Damian**, the 35<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Inauguration of the New Cathedral fo St. Mark in the Monastery of Anba Reweiss.

June 13 / Παρωνε 19 see April 18 / Παρωνε 23, page 208.

Annual tune. Placement of the relics of St. Mark in the Cathedral of Alexandria in 1968. St. Archelaus the 18<sup>th</sup> Patriach of Alexandria. **St. Geroge** the New Martyr. St. Bishai Anoub.

June 14 / Παρωνε 20 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. Elisha the prophet.

June 15 / Παρωνε 21 see April 26 / Παρωνε 1, page 217.

Annual tune. Dedication of the first Church for the All-holy and Blessed Virgin in Phillipi. St. Timothy of Memphis the martyr. St. Cedron, the 4<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 16 / Παρωνε 22 see November 18 (19) / Αθορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Consecraiton of the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damina, their mother and their brothers.

June 17 / Παρωνε 23 see January 17 (18) / Ιωβι 22, page 172.

Annual tune. St. Apanoub the Confessor.

June 18 / Παρωνε 24 see July 27 / Ηεσορη 3, page 287.

Annual tune. The Strong St. Moses.

June 19 / Παρωνε 25 see December 27 (28) / Ιωβι 1, page 137.

Annual tune. St. Jude the Apostle and martyr. St. Peter IV, the 34<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

June 20 / Παρωνε 26 see see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22. (Kitchener previously had

Tobi 1)

Annual tune. Joshua the Prophet. Consecration of the Church of Archangel Gabriel in Fayoum.

June 21 / Παρωνε 27 see April 25 / Παρωνε 30, page 214.

Annual tune. **St. Ananias** the Disciple and martyr. St. Thomas of Shentalet.

June 22 / Παρωνε 28 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Theodosius, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. Consecraiton of the Church of Abba Sarapamon the martyr, the bishop of Nikios.

June 23 / Παρωνε 29 see May 15 / Παρωνε 20, page 231.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Commemoration of the Seven Ascetic Martyrs of Mount Tounar. Sts. Abba Hor, Pishai, and their mother, Theodora, the martyrs.

## June 24 / Παρωνε 30

Annual Tune  
Nativiyt of St. John the Baptist

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

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

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

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

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

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:11-17

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

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

evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 7:8-22

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

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt

and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into Egypt where he died, along with our

fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them

to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions.

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

## June 25 / Επηπ 1 through June 26 / Επηπ 2

June 25 / Επηπ 1 see January 25 (26) / Ιωβι 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Febronia the martyr. Sts. Bioukha and Benjamin, the presbyters.

June 26 / Επηπ 2 see April 25 / Παρμογτε 30, page 214.

Annual tune. St. Thaddeaus the Apostle.

## June 27 / Επηπ 3

Annual Tune  
**Abba Cyril the Great**  
St. Celestine the Patriarch of rome

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:5-5:11

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

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," and he

has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not

from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from

God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is certain that we groan in this [tent], longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling; so that being clothed we will not be found naked. We who are in this tent are truly groaning as we are burdened; but it is not that we desire to be unclothed; rather, we desire to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now, the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also gave us the pledge of the Spirit.

Therefore, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight. I dare say that we are courageous and that we would rather be absent from the body and at home with the Lord. And so, we make this our aim: that whether at home or absent, we would be well-pleasing to him. For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what was done in the body; good or evil.

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:18-3:7

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

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, "neither was deceit found in his mouth" and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and 'by his stripes you were healed'. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This

way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord". You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint-heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 20:17-38

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

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the presbyters of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. I served the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews. I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house. To both Jews and to Greek, I bore witness to repentance before God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, behold, I go to Jerusalem bound by the Spirit. I do not know what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. But these things do not count, and I do not hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy and [fulfill] the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

Now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see my face again. And so, I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood

of all men, for I did not hesitate to proclaim to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, keep watch over yourselves and over the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers! Be shepherds of the Church of God which he has purchased with the blood of his own [son]. For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver, or gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that these [my] hands served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, as he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive!'"

After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all in tears, embracing Paul and kissing him. Most of all, they were sorrowful because of what he

had said, that they should never again see his face. Then, they accompanied him to the ship.

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

## June 28 / Επηπ 4

See November 11 (12) / Δεορ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. Translocation of the relics of Sts. Apakir and John.

## June 29 / Επηπ 5

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

### **The Pauline Epistle of the Blessing of the Waters (Lakane—the Prayer over the Basin)**

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things,

as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”<sup>a</sup> Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the

ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be

tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.” But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the

Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms

from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from

them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## June 30 / Επίτη 6

See December 27 (28) / Τεύχι 1, page 137.

Annual tune. **St. Olympus the Disciple.** St. Theodosia na dher companions, the martyrs.

# July or Επίηπ

## The First Sunday of July or Επίηπ

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife - even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock's milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with

hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a

reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might

gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father

again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more

precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which

was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon's porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around Jerusalem; they brought sick people,

and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin

together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Second Sunday of July or Επίτη

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 1:1-24

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other

“Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among

the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’. Now, regarding the

things which I write to you, you can see that I am not lying before God. After that, I visited the districts of Syria and Cilicia. My face was still unknown to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ; they only heard, “The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy!” And they glorified God in me.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 14-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

About these people, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied, saying:

*Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones,  
to execute judgment on all,  
and to convict all the ungodly of all  
their works of ungodliness  
which they have done in an ungodly  
way,  
and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

These are grumblers and complainers, walking after their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things. They only show respect of persons in order to gain an advantage.

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly

lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:19-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of

the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Third Sunday of July or Επίηπτ

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 6:3-16

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness, such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are

corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall

into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith]

in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 3:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members,

the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs?

Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 18:12-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, "This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law."

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters." And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the

brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills." He then set sail from Ephesus.

After landing at Caesarea, he went to greet the Church, and then traveled down to Antioch. Having spent some time there, he departed and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, strengthening all the disciples.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fourth Sunday of July or Επίηπ

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 1:27-2:11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

[In the meantime], let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear this about your condition: that you stand firm in one spirit, striving with one soul for the faith of the Good News. Do not be terrified by your opponents. This will be for them evidence of destruction, but to you, of salvation from God. For the sake of Christ, you have been granted the privilege not only to believe in him but also to suffer on his behalf, and so you are engaged in the same battle which you saw me fight and that you hear that I am [still] fighting.

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit,

but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look after your own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone,*

and:

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 19:11-22

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that

had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came

forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

Now, after these things had ended and after passing through Macedonia and Achaia, Paul firmly decided to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After going there, I must also see Rome!"

Having sent into Macedonia two of his attendants, Timothy and Erastus, Paul stayed in Asia for a while longer.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fifth Sunday of July or Επίηπ

### See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the

lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you

are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproofed by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should

interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John 1-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have

borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 11:2-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!”

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I

was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

The Fifth Sunday of May or Παύλος, page 223.

## July 1 / Επιηπ 7 through July 13 / Επιηπ 19

July 1 / Επιηπ 7 see January 27 (28) / Ապրիլ 2, page 179.

Annual tune. St. Shenouti the Archimandrite. **St. Ignatius** the bishop of Rome, the martyr.

July 2 / Επιηπ 8 see October 24 (25) / Πασχα 27, page 60.

Annual tune. **St. Pishoi**. Sts. Piroou and Athom. St. Balanah the presbyter. St. Pimanon. St. Cyrus (Karas), the brother of Emperor Theodosius.

July 3 / Επιηπ 9 see April 25 / Παρουσία 30, page 214.

Annual tune. **St. Simon Cleophas** the Disciple and martyr. St. Cleadion, the 9<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 4 / Επιηπ 10 see November 24 (25) / Δεκαπτέρυξ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Theodore, the bishop of Pentapolis, the martyr. St. Theodore, the bishop of Corinth, the martyr. **St. Gabriel VII**, the 9<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 5 / Επιηπ 11 see April 22 / Παρουσία 27, page 211.

Annual tune. St. John and his cousin, Simon. **St. Isaiah the hermit**.

July 6 / Επιηπ 12 see November 11 (12) / Δεκαπτέρυξ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. Abba Hor the martyr.

July 7 / Επιηπ 13 see November 24 (25) / Δεκαπτέρυξ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. **St. Pisentius** the bishop of Kift. St. Apamon of touch, the martyr. Abba Shenouti the new martyr.

July 8 / Επιηπ 14 see October 24 (25) / Πασχα 27, page 60.

Annual tune. **St. Macarius of Alexandria**. St. Pocopius of Jerusalem, the martyr. St Peter V, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 9 / Επιηπ 15 see July 27 / Ապրիլ 3, page 287.

Annual tune. St. Ephriam the Syrian.

July 10 / Επιηπ 16 see December 30 (31) / Հաւելի 4, page 143.

Annual tune. **St. John of the Golden Gospel**. Recovery of the relics of St. George the mew martyr.

July 11 / Επιηπ 17 see January 25 (26) / Հաւելի 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Euphemia the martyr.

July 12 / Επιηπ 18 see June 29 / Επιηπ 5, page 266.

Annual tune. St James the brother of the Lord, the bishop of Jerusalem.

July 13 / Επιηπ 19 see November 18 (19) / Δεκαπτέρυξ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. St. Bidaba the bishop of Kift the martyr. St. Pantaleon the physician and martyr. St. John X, the 85<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

## July 14 / Επνπ 20

Annual Tune  
St. Theodore Strathelatis the Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 2:3-15

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God's word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain

the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:8-15a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren,

tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult.

Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are  
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its  
desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide  
forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 27:42-28:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The soldiers' advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a

bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live." However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed. Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## July 15 / Επιηπ 21 through July 26 / Ηεσορη 2

July 15 / Επιηπ 21 see March 9 / Παρωχοτπ 13, page 199.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Sosenius** the eunuch.

July 16 / Επιηπ 22 see April 22 / Παρωογτε 27, page 211.

Annual tune. **St. Macarius the martyr.** St. Leontius of Tripoli the martyr.

July 17 / Επιηπ 23 see November 23 (24) / Αεορ 27, page 98.

Annual tune. **St. Longinus the martyr.** St. Marina the martyr.

July 18 / Επιηπ 24 see November 11 (12) / Αεορ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. **St. Apanoub** the martyr. St. Simeon I, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Isidore.

July 19 / Επιηπ 25 see November 21 (22) / Αεορ 25, page 95.

Annual tune. St. Anthony the martyr. St. Hilaria. St. Domatius the Syrian martyr. Abba Isaac the martyr. Sts. Thecla and Mouji the martyrs. St. Apakragon the martyr. St. Palamon the father of the monks. St. Thecla. **The Consecraiton of the Church of St. Mercurius.**

July 20 / Επιηπ 26 Prior to A.D. 2014 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. St. Joseph the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 20 / Επιηπ 26 After A.D. 2014 see May 19 / Παψλνс 24, page 234.

Annual tune. **St. Joseph** the Carpenter. St. Timothy, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 21 / Επιηπ 27 see April 18 / Παρωογτε 23, page 208.

Annual tune. St. Apamon the martyr. Consecration of the church of Abba Fam. Sts. Boushra and Emad the martyrs.

July 22 / Επιηπ 28 see January 25 (26) / Τωβι 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Mary Magdaline.

July 23 / Επιηπ 29 see June 29 / Επιηπ 5, page 266.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity and Resurrection. Translocation of the relics of St. Andrew the Apostle. **St. Ourshenoufa the martyr.**

July 24 / Επιηπ 30 see November 18 (19) / Αεορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. Sts. Mercurius and Ephraem the martyrs.

July 25 / Ηεσορη 1 see November 11 (12) / Αεορ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. **St. Apoli**, son of Justus, son of Emperor Nomerius, the martyrs. St. Cyril V, the 112<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

July 26 / Ηεσορη 2 see January 25 (26) / Τωβι 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Paesa.

## July 27 / Ιεροφ<sup>Η</sup> 3

Annual Tune

Translocation of the relics of St. Simon the Styliste  
St Abramius, the 5<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:1-8

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I could not speak to you as to spiritual persons, but as to carnal ones - infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat, because you were not yet ready. Indeed, you are not even ready now because you are still carnal. As long as there is jealousy, strife, and factions among you, are you not carnal, walking according to human ways? When one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Apollos, and who is

Paul, if not servants through whom you believed; and each as the Lord gave to him? I planted, Apollos watered, but [it is] God [who] made it grow! And so, neither the one planting nor the one watering is anything; only God makes it grow. Now the one planting and the one watering are the same, but each will receive a personal reward according to his own labor.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness,

through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to

goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the

cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 15:13-29

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;  
All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,  
Says the Lord, who does all these things.  
All his works are known to God from eternity.’*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

“The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and

Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas

and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## July 28 / Ιεσορή 4 through July 31 / Ιεσορή 7

July 28 / Ιεσορή 4 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual Tune. **Ezekieh the King.** Consecration of the church of St. Anthony.

July 29 / Ιεσορή 5 see January 21 (22) / Τωβί 26, page 174.

Annual tune. St. John the soldier and martyr.

July 30 / Ιεσορή 6 see January 25 (26) / Τωβί 30, page 177.

Annual tune. St. Julietta the martyr.

July 31 / Ιεσορή 7 see September 23 (24) / Θοορτ 26, page 37.

Annual tune. **Annunciation nativity of the Theotokos to Joachim.** St. Timothy II, the 26<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

# August or Աւգոստ և Կոշի նախօտ (The Little Month)

## The First Sunday of August or Աւգոստ և Կոշի նախօտ (The Little Month)

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife – even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock's milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit?

Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have

nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win

those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:8-15a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,*

*and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good?

Buteven if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts\* and always be ready to give a verbal defensee to everyone who asks you an explana-

tion for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

\*Kitchener ends here.

## The Praxis

Acts 19:23-41

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world reverea will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The whole city was filled with confusion.

The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the provinceb who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is

temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them

press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## **The Second Sunday of August or Уєсօрн and Корзі Нѧвот (The Little Month)**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

#### **Ephesians 6:1-23**

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise: "that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth."*

Fathers, do not drive your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, with deep loyalty, as to Christ. Do no serve only when eyes are on you in order to please human masters, but as servants of Christ. Accomplish God's will from the heart; serve with a good

attitude, as if you were serving the Lord and not men. Know that for whatever good we do, we shall receive the same in return from the Lord, no matter is we are slave or free.

You masters, do likewise to them: do not resort to threats but recognize that you both have the same Master in heaven, and there is no discrimination with him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil's tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the

principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get

tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:7-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness.

Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you,

young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love

of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 20:1-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then,

he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Third Sunday of August or Λειτουργία και Κορνάρια (The Little Month)

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 16:17-20

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:18-3:7

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also

suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body, he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed,

you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how

the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint-heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 21:8-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will

deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fourth Sunday of August or Успение and КорзинаВот (The Little Month)

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For this reason, we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth: the word of God. And it is at work in you who believe! For you, brethren, became imitators of the Churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews. They killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and they drove us out. Their conduct does not please God, and makes them the enemies of the entire human race as they want to prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. They are still bringing their sins to full measure, but the wrath is finally coming upon them.

Brethren, although we were deprived of your presence for a short time, (yet not in affection), we tried even harder to see you face to face with great eagerness, because we wanted to come to you. Certainly, I, Paul, wanted to come again and again - but Satan prevented us. For what is

our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes? For you are our glory and our joy!

Therefore, when we could not stand it any longer, we thought that it would be good to be alone in Athens and to send Timothy, our brother and God's minister in the Good News of Christ, so that he might confirm and comfort you in your faith and so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you know that these must come our way. This is certain, and when we were with you, we told you in advance that we must suffer affliction. And this is what happened, as you know. For this reason, when I could not stand it any longer, I sent him so that I might know your faith, fearing that in some way the tempter may have tempted you, so that our labor would have been in vain. But Timothy came back from his visit to you and brought us glad news of your faith and love. He mentioned your abiding good memories of us as well as your longing to see us even as we also long to see you. Through all this, brethren, we were comforted over

you in all our distress and affliction through your faith. Now we have revived, since you stand fast in the Lord! What thanksgiving can we give back to God for you, for all the joy you give us to experience before our God. Yes, night and day, I pray intensely so that we may see you again and make perfect what is lacking in your faith. Now, may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus

Christ, direct our way to you. May the Lord grant you to increase and overflow in love one for each other and for everyone, even as we also do for you. And may he establish your hearts, blameless in holiness before our God and Father even to end, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 4:7-5:5

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and

make a profit." But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who

reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts' content as in a day of slaughter.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 11:19-30

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fifth Sunday of August or Uecoph

See The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproofed by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his

face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John 1-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I

rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name

that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 11:2-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, “You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!”

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!’ But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, ‘What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.’ This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into

heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, ‘Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?”

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified

God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repent-

ance [that leads] to life!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

The Fifth Sunday of May or Παύλος, page 223.

## The Fifth Sunday of August or The Sunday of Κορυκί Νάβοτ (The Little Month)

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one

will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan's operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus

Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved

us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 3:1-18

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day

is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and

blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in

advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 2:14-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: "Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

*It will be in the last days, says God,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all  
flesh.*

*Your sons and your daughters will  
prophesy.*

*Your young men will see visions.*

*Your old men will dream dreams.*

*Yes, and on my servants and on my  
handmaidens in those days,*

*I will pour out my Spirit, and they  
will prophesy!*

*I will show wonders in the sky  
above,  
and signs on the earth beneath;  
blood, and fire, and billows of  
smoke.*

*The sun will be turned into dark-  
ness,*

*and the moon into blood,  
before the great and glorious day of  
the Lord comes.*

*And it will be that whoever will call  
on the Name of the Lord will be saved.'  
The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## August 1 / Ιεσορή 8 through August 5 / Ιεσορή 12

August 1 / Ιεσορή 8 see May 5 / Πάσχα 10, page 228.

Annual tune. **Sts. Lazarus, Salmi, his wife, and their children, the martyrs.** The confession of St. Peter the Apostle.

August 2 / Ιεσορή 9 see November 11 (12) / Δεορ 15, page 84.

Annual tune. St. Ari the presbyter and martyr.

August 3 / Ιεσορή 10 see November 23 (24) / Δεορ 27, page 98.

Annual tune. St. Matra the martyr. St. Pigebus the martyr.

August 4 / Ιεσορή 11 see November 24 (25) / Δεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. St. Moses the bishop of Ousim.

August 5 / Ιεσορή 12 see The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:1-10

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us.  
Amen.

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accom-

plishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:1-10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

[And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached to you.]\* Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,  
has become the chief cornerstone,  
and:*

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

\*This verse is found only in Coptic.

## The Praxis

Acts 9:31-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the

comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to

the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!” And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not to delay in coming to help

us!’ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

September 14 (15) / Θοορτ 17, page 25.

Annual tune. Montly commemoration of Archangel Michael. The regin of **Emperor Constantine**.

## August 6 / Илекори 13

Joyful Tune

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 1:1-23

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae: Grace

to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we

always pray for you. We have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and about the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope which is prepared for you in heaven. Of this hope you have heard before in the word of the truth of the Good News which has come to you; even as it is [spreading] in the whole world. It has been bearing fruit and growing [everywhere], as it has done in you too since the day you heard and experienced the grace of God in truth. This is what you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf. He has informed us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard this, we do not cease praying and making requests for you, so that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We also pray that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy! May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and

translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [these things]. I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure. For we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the

Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:44-8:1a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they

brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation

for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my  
feet.*

*What kind of house will you build  
for me?' says the Lord;  
'or what is the place of my rest?  
Did not my hand make all these  
things?'*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Then, they shouted with a loud voice, blocking their ears, and rushed at him with one accord. So they threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called in prayer, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Now, Saul was in full agreement with his death.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 7 / Ιεροφή 14 through August 9 / Ιεροφή 16

August 7 / Ιεροφή 14 see November 13 (14) / Δεοπ 17, page 86.

Annual tune. A miracle at Alexandria in the time of Abba Thjeophilus, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 8 / Ιεροφή 15 see January 25 (26) / Γωβί 30, page 177.

Annual utne. St. Marina the ascetic.

August 9 / Ιεροφή 16 see April 26 / Παψλαντ 1, page 217.

Annual tune. **The Assumption of the Theotokos.** St. Matthias IV, the 102 Patriarch of Alexandria.

## August 10 / Ιεροφή 17

Annual Tune  
St. Jacob the Soldier and Martyr

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 1:1-19

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different “Good News” - and there is no other “Good News”! Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any “Good News” that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other “Good News” than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or

people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years,

I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the

other apostles, except James, ‘the Lord’s brother’.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 15:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders

God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen

to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;  
All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. For from generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who preach him, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 11 / Ιεσορή 18 through August 17 / Ιεσορή 24

August 11 / Ιεσορή 18 see June 27 / Επίηπτ 3, page 262.

Annual tune. St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople. St. Eudaemon the martyr.

August 12 / Ιεσορή 19 see October 24 (25) / Παλωπέ 27, page 60.

Annual tune. Translocatin of the relics of St. Macarius to his monastery in Scetis (Sheheet).

August 13 / Ιεσορή 20 see November 18 (19) / Αεορ 22, page 90.

Annual tune. The Seven Holy Youths, the martyrs of Ephesus.

August 14 / Ιεσορή 21 see January 25 (26) / Τωβι 30, page 177.

Annual Tune. The monthly commemoration of the Theotokos. **St. Irene.**

August 15 / Ιεσορή 22 see September 5 (6) / Θοορτ 8, page 22.

Annual tune. **Michah the Prophet.** St. Hadid the martyr.

August 16 / Ιεσορή 23 see April 18 / Παρμορτέ 23, page 208.

Annual tune. **The 30,000 martyrs of Alexandria** during the reign of Marcian. St. Damian the martyr in Antioch.

August 17 / Ιεσορή 24 see November 24 (25) / Αεορ 28, page 100.

Annual tune. **St. Thecla Hemanoute**, the Ethiopian. St. Thomas, bishop of Marsh.

## August 18 / Աւգոստ 25

Annual Tune

**St. Besarion the Great, the first disciple of St. Anthony**

St. Macarius III the 114<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 3:20-4:9

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, by the working of his power, by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, stand firm in the Lord! I exhort Evodia and Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. Yes, I beg you also, Syzygus, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News and also with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known

to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at

the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of

the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or

earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 19 / Աւոգստ 26

Annual Tune

St. Moses and his sister Sarah, the Martyrs  
St. Agabius the soldier, and Thecla his sister, the Martyrs

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:14-27

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay

into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do

evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 19:11-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who

practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of

silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 20 / Աւոգստ 27

See April 18 / **Ապրիլ 23**, page 208.

Annual tune. Sts. Benjamin and Eudoxia the martyrs. St. Mary the Armenian, the martyr.

## August 21 / Աւոգստ 28

Annual Tune  
Commemoration of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a

testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By faith, he lived as an alien in the land

of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For

Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:14-23

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and

they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 7:20-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son.

Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions. But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

Seeing one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. He supposed that his brethren would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand.

The following day, Moses appeared to them as they are quarreling and urged them to be at peace again, saying: ‘Men, you are brothers! Why do you wrong each other?’ But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses away, saying: ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ When he heard this, Moses fled and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 22 / Աւոգստ 29

Joyful Tune

Commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection  
**Sts. Athanasius the bishop, Gerasimus, and Theodotus, the Martyrs**  
Arrival of the relics of St. John the Short to Scetis (Sheheet) in 515 A.D.

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:25-11:1

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliever (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking

no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your

own, but the other's conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else's conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to

Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:15-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is

not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:34-42

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored

by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, "Men of Israel,

consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be over-

thrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!"

They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they had them flogged and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus; then, they released them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of his Name.

Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 23 / 11ecopn 30

Annual Tune  
Malachi the Prophet

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 4:8-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now, what does "he ascended" mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the

perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceptions and mistaken schemes.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit

together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:19-2:3

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will

secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 7:30-37

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. The Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come

down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.'

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness

for forty years. It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. [You shall listen to him.]'

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

*\*Laking in EOB, found in TR and Coptic.*

## August 24 / Korzı Nàbot 1

Annual Tune

St. Eutychus, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist

St. Pishay the Antiochian

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,

you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and

hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,  
Their words to the ends of the world.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the

blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that

we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they

were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 25 / Κορινθία 2

Annual Tune  
St. Titus the Disciple

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:4

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Since we have such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, not as Moses, who put a veil on his face so that the children of Israel would not see the end of what was passing away. In this case, their minds were hardened, because to this very day, at the reading of the old covenant, the same veil remains since only in Christ does it pass away. Even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. With unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are all being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, and this is from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, seeing that we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we do not waver. We have renounced the hidden things of shame: we no longer walk in clever lies and we do not handle the word of God deceitfully. Instead, by the manifestation of the truth, we seek the approval of everyone who has a conscience in the sight of God. Even if our Good News is veiled, it is veiled in those who perish, as the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ who is the image of God should not dawn on them.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 John 5:1-11a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one

who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his

commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are

three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 14:1-7

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In Iconium, both Paul and Barnabas entered into the synagogue of the Jews. They spoke in such a way that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up and poisoned the souls of the Gentiles against the brethren. Therefore, Paul and Barnabas stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord. Moreover, the Lord bore witness to the word of his grace, granting that

signs and wonders be done by their hands. However, the city was divided. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. Then, a group of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, plotted to attack and stone them. But Paul and Barnabas became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and to the surrounding region. There, they continued to preach the Good News.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 26 / Korzki Nábot 3

Annual Tune  
**Archangel Raphael**  
St. Andrianus the Martyr  
St. John XIV, the 96<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 2:5-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, God did not subject the world to come (which we proclaim) to angels, but there is a place {in Scripture} where someone has testified:

*What is man, that you [should] think of him?*

*Or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*You made him a little lower than the angels.*

*You crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Since God has subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him! But now, we do not see all things subjected to him, [at least not] yet. But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, [that is] Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he should taste death for everyone.

Indeed, it was fitting for God, (for whom are all things and through whom are all things), in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one; for this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

*I will declare your Name to my brethren.*

*In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*

Again:

*I will put my trust in him,*  
and

*Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me.*

Since the children have shared in [the same] flesh and blood, he likewise shared the same [human nature], so that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long slavery.

Certainly, Jesus did not take on the [nature of] angels, but [that of] Abraham's seed. For this reason, he had to be made like his brethren in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in

things pertaining to God, {able} to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Moreover, since he himself suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy

and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:21-33

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter went down to [meet] the men, and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for! Why have you come?”

They replied, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, someone well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say.” Then Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. On the next day, Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. The following day, they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for

a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 27 / Κορινθιακός ἁβωτ 4

Annual Tune  
**Abba Poemen the Anchorite**  
St. Leparius the bishop of Rome

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 3:9-22

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, we are God's coworkers! You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each person's work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone's work. If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. [On the other hand], if someone's work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire.

Do you not know that your bodies are a sanctuary of God, and that

God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him because God's sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are! Let no one deceive himself: if anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. As it is written, "He has taken the wise in their craftiness." And also, "The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless." Therefore, let no one boast in human beings! All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Kephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 5:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:24-19:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed

through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!”

Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## August 28 / Κορζι ḥābot 5 through August 31 / Θooṛt 3

August 28 / Κορζι ḥābot 5 see November 24 (25) / Αeop 28, page 100.

Annual tune. Amos the Prophet. St. James the bishop of Egypt. St. Barsoma the naked. St. John XV, the 99<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 29 / Κορζι ḥābot 6 see February 29 / Κορζι ḥābot (The Little Month) 6, page 196.

Annual tune. A Thanksgiving to God.

August 29 (30) / Θooṛt 1 see August 29 (30) / Θooṛt 1, page 16.

Joyful Tune. **The Ecclesiastical New Year.** St. Bartholomew the Apostle. St. Milieus, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria.

August 30 (31) / Θooṛt 2 see The Pauline Epistle

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have something to answer to those who boast in appearances—not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new! But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and who gave to us the ministry of reconciliation. What I mean is that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not imputing sins, but having entrusted us with the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ: it is as if God was making [his] supplication through us: we beg you,

on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God! God made him who knew no sin to become sin for our sake; so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

Since we are God's fellow-workers, we also entreat you not receive his grace in vain, for he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,*

*in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

We have spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, and our heart is open

wide. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us! In return,

I speak to you as to my children: be open [to what we have to say].

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:7-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed

from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 17:16-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Others suggested, “He seems to be advocating foreign deities,” because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] ‘the resurrection’.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” Now, all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What

therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being!’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again on this matter."

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and

August 30 (31) / Θοορτ 2, page 16.

Joyful tune. **The martyrdom of St. John the Baptist.** St. Dasya the soldier and martyr.

August 31 (September 1) / Θοορτ 3 see June 27 / Επηπ 3, page 262.

Joyful tune. Commemoration of the **Council held in Alexandria.** A great earthquake in 1112 A.D.

believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# **GREAT LENT**

# The Fast and Feast of Nineveh

## Monday of the Fast of Nineveh

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:17-23

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and ever-increasing wickedness, now offer your members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were

servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

Jude 1:1-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight

hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings. But the archangel Michael, when he contend with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring against the devil an evil-speaking judgment, but said, “May the Lord rebuke you!”

Yet, these people speak evil of things they know nothing about. What they do understand (by natural power, like the creatures without reason), these things will destroy them. Woe to them! They have followed the path of Cain and they have thrown themselves after the error of Balaam for the sake of money, and they have perished in Korah’s rebellion. These people are like hidden and rocky reefs in your agape meals, when they feast with you. They are shepherds who feed themselves without fear, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved to the age.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 2:38-47

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God

will call to himself.” With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to

everyone's need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 1:21-29

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

Now, I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body which is the Church. I have become her

servant, according to God's commission which was I received for you, in order to fulfill the word of God. This is the mystery which was hidden for ages and generations. But now, it has been revealed to his saints. To them, God was pleased to reveal the glorious generosity of this mystery among the Gentiles. This mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is what we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. This is what I also work for, struggling with his energy which is powerfully at work in me.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:3-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled

and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 17:30-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead."

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again on this matter."

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 2:1-22

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God who is rich in mercy, on account of his great love by which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved! God raised us up with him, and granted us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come, he might show the overflowing treasure of his grace in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. Yes, by grace you have been saved through faith, not by yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them.

Therefore, remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh who are called “uncircumcision” by what is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands); remember, I say, that you used to be separated from Christ. You were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household, being

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary

in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:12-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:12:20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, "Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God

first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.'*

*I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.*

*I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these things.*

*All his works are known to God from eternity.'*

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those who turn to God from among the Gentiles. Instead, we should write to them to abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Feast of Nineveh

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is

made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaias says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And

so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the earth,  
Their words to the ends of the world.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:17-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this

ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 3:22-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Indeed, Moses indeed said to the fathers, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brethren. You shall listen to him in all that he tells you. And it shall be that every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly cut off from among the people.' In

fact, all the prophets that have spoken, from Samuel to those who followed after [him], have also announced these days. You are the children of the prophets, and [children] of the covenant which God made with our fathers when he said to Abraham, 'In your seed will all the

families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up [to life] his servant Jesus, sent him to you first, in order

to bless you as everyone of you turns away from his wicked ways."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Saturday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers: what association is there between righteousness and wickedness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? What sharing is there between a believer and an unbeliever? What agreement can there be between God's sanctuary and idols? For you are a sanctuary of the living God. Even as God said, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they will be my people." Therefore:

*'Come out from among them, and be separate,' says the Lord.*

*Touch no unclean thing.*

*I will receive you.*

*I will be a Father to you.*

*You will be to me sons and daughters,'*

says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, so that we may bring [our] holiness to completion in the fear of God. Open

your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, a least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experi-

enced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter. And so, although I wrote to you, it was neither for the sake of the

offender nor for the one offended, but so that your devotion to us might be revealed in the sight of God. Therefore, we have been comforted. In our comfort, we rejoiced all the more on account of Titus's joy, because you had refreshed his spirit. I had boasted to him about you, and I was not disappointed! And just as we spoke all things to you in truth, likewise boasting to Titus [about you] was found to be the truth. His deep affection for you is even stronger as he remembers your obedience, how with fear and trembling you received him. I rejoice that concerning you, I can be confident in everything.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and

undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do

not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They

received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 21:1-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After departing from them, we set sail and made a straight course to Cos. The next day, [we sailed] to Rhodes and from there to Patara. Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and continued our journey. When we came in sight of Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre where the ship was to unload her cargo. Since we found some disciples there, we stayed for seven days. Through the Spirit, these disciples told Paul that he should not go up to Jerusalem. When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the

beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul's companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit: 'Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man

who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.””

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my

heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.””

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!””

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 11:16-28

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I say it again: may you not think that I am fool! But if you do, receive me still as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. What I [now] speak, I do not speak according to the Lord, but in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. And since I see that many boast as humans do, I will also boast. Yes, since you are wise, you bear with the foolish gladly! In fact, you put up with someone who brings you into slavery, devours you, takes you captive, exalts himself, or strikes you on the face. I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham's seed? So am I! Are they Christ's servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in more

labors, more in prisons, beaten countless times, often close to death. Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false brothers; in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

Besides those things which are external, there is something that presses on me daily: anxiety for all the Churches.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a precious faith like ours, with us, in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May

grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted us all that we need to live in godliness,

through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. Though these things, he has granted to us his precious and tremendous promises, so that having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent

you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins. Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 21:15-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After these days, we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing an early disciple [named] Mnason of Cyprus, with whom we would be staying.

When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. The next day, Paul went with us to visit James, and all the presbyters were present. After greeting them, Paul reported in detail what God had worked among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard it, they glorified God. They told him, "You see, brother, that there are many thou-

sands among the Jews who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to abandon Moses and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or to preserve the customs. What then? The Church must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come! Therefore, do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them, join in their purification rites, and pay for their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no

truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled

things, and from sexual immorality.”

So Paul took the men, and the next day, he purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:26-2:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions, for their women changed the natural function into what is against nature and the men likewise. They abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men, and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. Even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting. They have become filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are also full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers,

without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; Knowing the ordinance of God, (that those who practice such things are worthy of death), they not only do these [very] things but also approve of those who practice them.

Therefore, you are without excuse, if you are judging! For in passing judgment on another, you condemn yourself, because you pass judgment and yet practice the same things. We know that the judgment of God is according to truth and against those who practice such things. Do you think that you will escape the judgment of God if you judge those who practice such things and yet does the same? Or do you despise the riches of God’s goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up

for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their

works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:1-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, “Sit here in a good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there,” or “Sit by my footstool!” Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you

are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery” also said “Do not commit murder.” Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 14:19-28

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church,

with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

They passed through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. After preaching the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there, they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now fulfilled. When they arrived, they gathered the Church and reported all that God had accomplished with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 9:14-29

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What then shall we say? That there is injustice with God? May it never be! For he said to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” And so, it is not about someone willing or running, but it depends on God who has mercy. Thus, the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose, I caused you to be raised up, so that I might show in you my power, and that my Name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” And so, God has mercy

on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. You will then ask me, “Why does God still find fault? Who can resist his will?”

But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath and also to make his power known, endured with

much patience vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory? That is us, whom he also called, not from the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? As he says also in Hosea:

*I will call them 'my people,' which were not my people;  
and her 'beloved,' who was not beloved.*

*It will be that in the place where it was said to them,*

*You are not my people,'*

*There they will be called 'children of the living God.'*

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

*If the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea,*

*It is the remnant who will be saved;*

*For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness,*

*Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.*

As Isaias has said before:

*Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us a seed,*

*We would have become like Sodom,*

*And would have been made like Gomorrah.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:3-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! There-

fore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:34-42

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell you: stay away from these men and

leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!”

They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they had them flogged and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus; then, they released them. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of his Name.

Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 14:19-15:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not

overthrow God’s work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to

create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, “The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures’ encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 1:4b-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust, you may become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason, do your utmost to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge. To knowledge, add self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and in

godliness add brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and overflow, they will prevent you from being idle or unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who lack these things are blind; they only see what is near and they have forgotten the cleansing from their old sins.

Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the

eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:9-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, on the next day, as they were on their way and approached the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a great sheet let down on the earth by four corners and descending to him. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter, kill and eat!”

But Peter said, “Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean!”

Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, “What God has

cleansed, you must not call unclean.” This happened three times, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. As Peter was very perplexed regarding the meaning of the vision, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius found where Simon’s house was and stood at the gate. They called and asked whether Simon, who was called Peter, was lodging there. While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise and go down-stairs! Accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I beg you therefore, be imitators of me. For this reason, I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every Church. Now, some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills! Then I will find out not so much what these arrogant people say, but what power they have. For the Kingdom of God is not in speech, but in power. What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and a kind as does not even occur among the Gentiles, [namely] that someone has his father's wife! And you are arrogant! Should you not rather have mourned, so that whoever has done this would have been removed from among you? For I most certainly, as being absent in body but present in

spirit, have already, as though I were present, judged the man who has done this thing! In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are to hand over such a person to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be delivered in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your self-satisfaction is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral\*.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

\*Other translations have “fornicators” for “pornos”

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:8-2:11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say

that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the

righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you

heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:3-13

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled

from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to

him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 12:6-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let you love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute

you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God's wrath follow its course. As it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay," says the Lord." Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John (all)

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among

them, does not accept what we say. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 2:42-3:9

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to

the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and

many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone's need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one

which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 12:1-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your rational offering of divine service. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. By the grace that

was given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you should! Instead, think [of yourselves] reasonably, as God has apportioned to everyone a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, likewise we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individ-

ally members of one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

Let your love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute

you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God's wrath follow its course. As it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay," says the Lord." Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the

Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its

appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 21:27-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the seven days were almost completed, Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the entire crowd and laid hands on him, shouting, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the {chosen} people, the law, and this place. Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place!" [They said this] because they had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with Paul in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

The entire city was in turmoil and the people came running. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the doors were shut. As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the [Roman] troops that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Immedi-

ately, he took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to the crowd. When they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, the Jews stopped beating Paul. Then, the commanding officer came near and arrested him. He gave orders that Paul should be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what he had done. From the crowd, some shouted one thing and some another. Since the commander could not find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded that Paul be taken into the barracks.

When Paul reached the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd. The whole mob followed them and shouted, "Away with him!" As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, "May I speak to you?"

The man said, “Do you know Greek? Then, are you not the Egyptian who recently stirred people up to rebellion and led the four thousand Assassins into the wilderness?”

But Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The First Sunday of Great Lent

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 13:1-14

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Let every human being be in subjection to the higher authorities because there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. Therefore, whoever opposes the authority opposes the ordinance of God. Those who oppose will receive judgment upon themselves. Certainly, rulers are not a terror to the good deed, but to the evil [deed]! Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will have praise [from the authority], because it is for you a minister of God for good. But if you do what is evil, then be afraid, because it does not bear the sword in vain; it is a servant of God, an avenger of wrath to anyone who does evil. Therefore, you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. For this reason, you also pay taxes, because the authorities are ministers of God's service, always taking care of this purpose. And so, give to everyone as you owe: taxes to whom taxes are due; revenues to whom revenues are due; respect to whom respect is due; honor to whom honor is due!

Do not owe anything to anyone, except to love one another; for whoever loves the other has fulfilled the law.

Indeed, these commandments ("You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and whatever other commandments there are,) are all summed up in this very saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does not harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

Do this, being aware of the time: it is already time for you to awaken from sleep, for salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed! The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently, as in the day; not in parties and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and lustful acts, and not in strife or jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think how to satisfy the flesh and its lusts.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:13-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

When temptations come, let no one say, “I am tempted by God,” because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by

the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 21:40-22:16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the commander had given him permission, Paul, stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying:

“Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense which I now make to you.”

When the people heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet.

Paul continued, “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are this day. I persecuted this Way to death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as the high priest and the entire council of the presbyters can testify. I even received letters for their

brethren in Damascus and traveled there to bring these people in chains to Jerusalem to be punished. It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’ Since I could not see

because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand of those who were with me and arrived in Damascus. Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, came to me. Standing by me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment, I was able to see him! He said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. For you will be a witness for him to all men, testifying to what you have seen and heard. Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.’

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:18-25

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of those suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting power and divinity. This is so that

they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

Thinking themselves to be wise, they became fools! They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, of birds, of four-footed

animals, and creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, so that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves. Having exchanged the truth of God for a lie,

they worshiped and offered divine service to the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 1-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it needful to write to you in order to encourage you to fight hard for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For there are certain men who have secretly crept in, people whose condemnation was announced long ago. They are ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into indecency and they deny our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Even though you already know this, I wish to remind you that the Lord, having saved a people out of

the land of Egypt, later on destroyed those who did not believe! The angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place, he has also kept in darkness and eternal chains for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities around them had given themselves over to sexual immorality and unnatural relations in the same way as these angels. They are presented as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Yet, these people do the same thing: in their delusion, they degrade the flesh, despise authority, and slander the glorious beings.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:36-5:11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Joses, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles (which means ‘Son of Encouragement’) was a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race. He sold a field that he owned and brought the money, laying it at the apostles’ feet.

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great

fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?”

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Let everyone give according to what he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful

giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that by having what is needed in everything, you may overflow in every good work. As it is written:

*He has scattered abroad, he has given to the poor.*

*His righteousness remains forever.*

Now, may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food also supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. Thus, may you be enriched in everything, so that you may be generous in all things, and through us, this brings thanksgiving to God. This ministry of giving which you perform does not only make up for what the saints are lacking; it also overflow into thanksgiving to God.

Seeing that you prove yourselves by this service, the saints glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the Good News of Christ, and also for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all. As for them, with supplication on your behalf, they are devoted to you by reason of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## **The Catholic Epistle**

James 1:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion:  
Greetings!

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 4:13-22

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name." They

called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!"

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:1-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some

were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

*That you might be justified in your words,*

*and might prevail when you come into judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), “Let us do evil, that good may come?” Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.*

*There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,*

*With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 John 8-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:3-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not [still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!”

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her,

“Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?” She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 16:17-27 or Romans 16:17-24, 14:24-26\*

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their

smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly

crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Timothy, my fellow-worker, greets you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives. I, Tertius, who write the letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, my host and host of the whole Church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, as does Quartus, the brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ

according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

\*The order of these verses varies. TR places them as they are seen here. PT and EOB place the last paragraph as the end of chapter 14.

## The Catholic Epistle

James 3:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members,

the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs?

Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 12:12-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After pondering on this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and praying. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she did not open the door. Instead, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

But they said to her, "You are crazy!" When she insisted that it was so, they said, "It is his angel!" Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened [the door], they saw him and were amazed. But he motioned them with his hand to be silent and told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, "Tell these things to James, and to the brethren." Then he departed, and went to another place.

As soon as day came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers

over what had become of Peter. When Herod had Peter looked for and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered that they should be put to death. Meanwhile, Peter went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

At that time, Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. With one accord, they came to him, and, having befriended Blastus (the king's personal aide), they asked for peace because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. The people shouted, "The voice of a god, not of a man!" Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:28-13:16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and so offer divine service to God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Keep on loving each other as brethren. Do not forget to be hospitable to strangers, for in doing so, some have welcomed angels without knowing it! Remember those who are in chains, as chained with them, and also those who are ill-treated, as if you too were suffering in the body. Marriage must be held in honor among all and the [marriage] bed [kept] undefiled: but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Be free from the love of money and be satisfied with what you have. As God has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you." And so, we say with good courage:

*The Lord is my helper, I will not fear.*

*What can man do to me?*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus

Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:7-16

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as

if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:22-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas,

leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

"The apostles, the presbyters, and the brethren; to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings! We have heard that some who went out from us have

troubled you with words and unsettled your souls by saying: ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’, although they had no such commission from us. Having assembled with one accord, it has seemed good to us to select men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and

to us to impose no greater burden on you than what is necessary: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. If you abstain from these things, it will be well with you. Farewell!”

Accordingly, the men were sent off and arrived in Antioch where they gathered the community and delivered the letter. The people read it and rejoiced over the encouragement.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 14:1-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not to enter into arguments over disputable matters. One has faith to eat all things while the weak eats only vegetables. The one who eats [everything] should not look down on the one who does not eat. The one who does not eat should not judge the one who eats because God has accepted him. Who are you who judge someone else’s servant? He stands or falls to his own master! Yes, that one will be made [able] to stand, because God has the power to make someone stand.

One person considers that a [particular] day is more important [than

the others]. Another thinks that every day is alike. Let each in his own mind be fully convinced. The one who observes the day should observe it ‘to the Lord’; and the one who does not observe it should do so ‘to the Lord’. The one who eats should eat ‘to the Lord’ because he gives thanks to God! Likewise, the one who does not eat should do so ‘to the Lord’ because such he [also] gives thanks to God! Indeed, we do not live selfishly and we do not die for ourselves. In fact, if we live, we live ‘to the Lord,’ or if we die, we die ‘to the Lord’. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. It is for this purpose that

Christ died, rose, and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*'As I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.'*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean

of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by all.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:22-27

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Be 'doers of the word'; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a 'hearer of the word' and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 22:17-30

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way. When they had tied him up with

straps, Paul asked the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman [citizen] and uncondemned?”

When the centurion heard this, he went to the commanding officer and told him, “Do you realize what you are about to do? This man is a Roman [citizen]!”

Then the commanding officer came and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman?”

Paul replied, “Yes!”

The commanding officer answered, “I bought my citizenship for a great price!”

“But I was born a Roman,” Paul replied.

Immediately those who were about to examine him left him, and even the commanding officer was afraid when he realized that he had bound Paul, Roman [citizen], in chains. But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together. He then brought Paul down and set him before them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Second Sunday of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 14:19-15:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God's work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is

made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, "The insults of those who insulted you fell on me." For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures' encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:1-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, "Sit here in a good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there," or "Sit by my footstool!" Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you

are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not commit murder." Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 23:1-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Looking straight at the Sanhedrin, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day." Then Ananias, the

high priest, ordered those who stood by him to strike Paul on the mouth.

At this, Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!

Do you sit to judge me according to the law, and [yet] command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

Those who stood by said, "Do you insult God's high priest?"

Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'" But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!"

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or

spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, "We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!"

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, "Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:5

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral; yet I did not mean with the immoral people of this world, or with those who are greedy, dishonest, or idolaters; or else you would have to leave the world! But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a

slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging

those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

"Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!"

Now, how can any of you dare go to court before the unrighteous (and not before the saints) when there is a matter against a neighbor? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is [to be] judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life?

And now, if you need to judge things pertaining to this life, why do you place yourselves under judges who are of no account in the Church? I say this to move you to shame. Is there not even one wise man among you who would be able to decide between his brothers?

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him

and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 17:10-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At once, the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now, the Beroeans were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well

as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men. But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Beroea, they came there to stir up the crowds. Then, the brethren immediately led Paul away to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained there.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:1-8

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but

believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God’s word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old

commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 27:9-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will

result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what

Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach

Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:9-17

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan's operation with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from

the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 2 Peter 2:9-15

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to hold the wicked for their punish-

ment on the day of judgment, especially those follow the desires of their corrupt human nature and have

no respect for [angelic] authority. Daring and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of the glorious ones, whereas angels, although greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. But these people act as creatures without reason, as natural animals [that are meant] to be taken and destroyed. They speak evil in matters about which they are ignorant and in their attempt to destroy they will surely be destroyed, receiving the wages of unrighteousness. These are people who consider it pleasurable to

revel in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, amusing themselves in their deceit while they feast with you. Their eyes are full of adultery and they cannot break away from sin. They entice unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed and they are children of cursing. Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray by following the path of Balaam the son of Beor who loved being paid for doing evil.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 28:7-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leader of the island, [a man] named Publius who welcomed us and courteously entertained us for three days. It also happened that Publius' father was bedridden, sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him, prayed, and laying his hands on him,

healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the people who had diseases in the island also came, and they were cured. They honored us in many ways, and when we sailed off, put on board the things that we needed.

Three months later, we set sail.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:6-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith

taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 4:1-10

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The spirit which dwells in us

longs to envy"? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 28:1-6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “There is no

doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live.” However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed. Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-8

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous.

God testified about his gifts, and although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is

according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 17-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you that “in the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts.” These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them,

making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 23:6-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But when Paul realized that some were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a

son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man! But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 2 Corinthians 7:2-11

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Open your hearts to us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, and we took advantage of no one. I say this not to condemn you, for as I have said before, you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. [But] great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf! I am filled with consolation, I overflow with joy in all our afflictions.

Indeed, even after arriving in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were afflicted on every side. There was struggle on the outside and fear inside. Nevertheless, he who comforts the lowly, God, comforted us with the arrival of Titus; and not just

by his arrival but also by the encouragement he had received from you. He told us of your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me; and I rejoiced even more.

Although I [know that I] made you feel bad with my [first] letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it for a while). I can see that my letter made you sorry, at least for a while. But now, I rejoice, not that you experienced distress, but that you were made sorry to repentance. Indeed, you experienced godly distress and thus you did not experience a loss because of us. For godly sorrow works repentance that leads to salvation, it does not bring regret. But

on the other hand, the sorrow of the world is deadly. Consider what happened in this case: you experienced distress in a godly way and what serious reaction it worked in

you! Yes, what apology, anger, fear, longing, zeal, and vengeance [resulted]! In everything you have shown yourselves blameless in this matter.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:14-26

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works!” Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his

son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness” was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 23:12-35

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When day came, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty people who joined this conspiracy. They came to the chief priests and the presbyters, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to eat nothing until we

have killed Paul. Now then, you with the Sanhedrin should petition the commanding officer to bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to judge his case more exactly. We are ready to kill him before he comes near!"

But Paul's nephew heard of their ambush. He came and entered into the fortress and told Paul. Calling one of the centurions, Paul said, "Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him."

Accordingly, the centurion took Paul's nephew and brought him to the commanding officer, saying, "Paul, the prisoner, called me and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you."

The commanding officer took Paul's nephew by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"

He replied, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though intending to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him. But to not give in to their request, for more than

forty men lie in wait for Paul, and they have bound themselves under a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for you to grant their request."

And so, the commanding officer let the young man go with this instruction, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me." He called to himself two of the centurions, and said, "Prepare two hundred soldiers to leave at the third hour of the night for Caesarea, along with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears." He asked them to provide animals in order set Paul on one, and to bring him safely to Felix the governor. He wrote a letter like this:

*"Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings!"*

This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman [citizen]. Desiring to know why they accused him, I brought him to their council. I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but not to be charged with anything worthy of death or imprisonment. When I was told that the Jews were about to ambush this man, I immediately sent him to you. I also instructed his accusers to bring their accusations against him before you. Farewell."

And so, the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul and brought

him by night to Antipatris. But on the next day, they left the horsemen to continue with him and returned to the barracks. When they arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and also presented Paul to him. After reading the letter, the

governor asked what province Paul was from. Having learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, “I will hear you fully when your accusers also arrive.” He then commanded that Paul should be held in Herod’s palace.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Third Sunday of Great Lent

## The Pauline Epistle

### 2 Corinthians 6:2-13

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For he says,

*At an acceptable time I listened to you,  
in a day of salvation I rescued you.*

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our service may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteous-

ness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought to be deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

We have spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, and our heart is open wide. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us! In return, I speak to you as to my children: be open [to what we have to say].

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 3:1-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the

horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or considerer the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a

little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse

those who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 24:1-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of

the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true. When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more

than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually

purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:12-26

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive

the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs

with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation groans and labors

in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 5:16-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 11:2-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!" But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, 'What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.' This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was staying, having

been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Chris, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 4:1-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility,

with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body,

and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now, what does "he ascended" mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the

perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 2:2-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a

preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives. He delivered the righteous Lot who was very distressed by the lustful behavior of these wicked people; that righteous man was living among them and was tormented every day in his righteous

soul when he saw and heard lawless deeds.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 27:1-3

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast

of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Ephesians 4:17-32

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. They are darkened in their understanding, cut off from God's life because of their ignorance and because of the hardening of their hearts. Having become hardened, such people gave themselves up to lust and they pursue what is impure with greed. But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in

him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another.

“Be angry, and do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed,

in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 3:13-4:4

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This ‘wisdom’ is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 11:26b-12:2

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability,

each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

About that time, King Herod took actions to oppress some of the [members of the] Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the

poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all

things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away

childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 4:11-5:3

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit." But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow? Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will

live and also do this or that." But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 4:19-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 13:7-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering

for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:7-16

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live

through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one

another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God,

and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 22:17-24a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. \*[He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.]\*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

\* [] lacking in Kitchener

## Saturday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 4:4-9

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honora-

ble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are commendable, if there is any virtue or any praise, think about these things. What you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

James 3:13-4:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This ‘wisdom’ is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasona-

ble, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,

in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The spirit which dwells in us

longs to envy”? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 24:24-25:12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

A few days later, Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and granted him a hearing concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became alarmed and said, “Go your way for this time. When it is convenient for me, I will summon you [again].” Meanwhile, he also hoped that Paul would offer him money for his release. For this reason too, he sent for him more often and discussed with him. But after two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. Then the high priest and the leaders of the Jewish people presented to him an [accusatory] report against Paul. They

begged him and asked for his support against Paul, asking that he would transfer the prisoner [back] to Jerusalem, plotting to kill him on the way. However, Festus replied that Paul would be kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself would leave shortly. He said, “Those who have authority among you should go down with me! And if the man has done anything wrong, let them accuse him.”

Having stayed among them more than ten days, Festus returned to Caesarea. The following day, he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. When Paul arrived, the Jews who had traveled from Jerusalem stood around him and hurled against him many grave accusations which they could not prove. Paul then said in his [own] defense, “I have not sinned in any way, against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against Caesar!”

Then, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Festus asked Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem in order to be judged by me there concerning these matters?”

But Paul replied, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. Now, if I have done wrong

and committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die! But if none of those things they accuse me of are true, then no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

At this, and after conferring with his advisers, Festus answered, “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 6:10-24

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil's tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, even with unfading love. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

James 4:7-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and make a profit." But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow? Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 25:13-26:1a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

A few days later, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and greeted Festus. Since Agrippa was spending some time there, Festus presented Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a certain man who was left as a prisoner by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the presbyters of the Jews presented an [accusatory] report about this man, asking me to condemn him. I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to condemn anyone to

death before the accused has met his accusers face to face and has had opportunity to make his defense in the case against him. Then, since they had come together here, I did not delay. On the following day, I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in. When the accusers stood up, they did not bring any of the charges I was expecting. Instead, they had some dispute against him dealing with their own religion, and about a certain Jesus

who was dead, and who Paul affirms to be alive. I was puzzled as how to investigate such things and asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. But Paul appealed that his case be reserved for the decision of the emperor, and so I gave orders that he be detained until I could send him to Caesar."

Agrippa said to Festus, "I too would like to hear this man!"

"Tomorrow," Festus replied, "you shall hear him."

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all who are here present

with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also specifying the charges against him."

Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Philippians 2:1-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look

after your own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in

the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And so, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my

absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, according to his good purpose. Do all things without murmurings and disputes in order to become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you are seen as lights in the world. Uphold the word of life, so that I may have a reason to glory in the day of Christ: that I did not run or labor in vain.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:10-18

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord

God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are  
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:25-35

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up! I am also a man!” As he talked with Cornelius, he went in and found many people assembled. Peter said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit someone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Therefore, I have come without complaint when I was sent for. And so, I ask, why did you send for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man stood

before me in bright clothing, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Therefore, send [messengers] to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ And so, I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come! Now, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that God has commanded you.”

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 2:22-26a

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But you know how he has proved himself; as a child serves a father, he has served with me to spread the Good News. Therefore, I hope to

send him at once, as soon as I see how things are going with me [here]. As it is, I trust in the Lord that I too will be able to come shortly. But I

deemed it necessary to send you Epaphroditus who is my brother, fellow-worker, fellow-soldier, and

your apostle and the servant of my need. He longed for you all.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 3:2-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a

sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 24:10-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, "Because I know that you have been

a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve

days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually

purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, ‘I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!’”

But Felix, being better informed concerning the Way, adjourned the case, stating, “When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case.”

He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and that he should have some privileges: none of his friends should be forbidden from serving him or visiting him.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:14-5:5

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

However, if those who are of the law are heirs, then faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. As it is, the law brings about wrath; but where there is no law there is no transgression either. This is why the promise is to faith, so that it comes as a free gift and it is secure for all the

descendants, not only for those who rely on the Law but also for all those others who rely on the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations.” This is in the presence of the one whom Abraham believed: even God, who gives life to the dead

and calls into existence what does not yet exist. Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become “the father of many nations”, according to what had been spoken, “And so will your seed be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was already worn out, (he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was “credited to him for righteousness.” Now, it was not written that “it was accounted to him” for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our

sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered up for our sins, and was raised for our justification.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:12-19

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you. On their part, Christ is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let

none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people’s matters. However, if one of you suffers for being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will

happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 11:12-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as on us at the beginning. I remembered the

word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' And so, if God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to oppose God?"

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak [to you] as to people that have common sense. Judge what I say: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break,

is not it a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body because we all partake of the one loaf of bread. Consider Israel according to the flesh: is it not true

that those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

What am I saying then: that something sacrificed to idols is meaningful, or that an idol is anything? [No], but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and also from the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons as well. Or do we [want to] provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are profitable. “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things build up. We should not seek our own good, but our neighbor’s good.

You may eat whatever is sold at the market, asking no question for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and its fullness.” If you are invited for a meal by an unbeliev-

er (and if you are inclined to accept), eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience, for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” I say conscience, not your own, but the other’s conscience. But why is my freedom judged by someone else’s conscience? If I partake with gratefulness, why am I denounced for what I give thanks for? And so, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever [else] you do, do it all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the Church of God; even as I also [attempt to] please everyone in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

Be my imitators, even as I imitate Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:2c-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and

undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various

trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you

love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 21:5-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When our time there was completed, we departed and went on our journey. All the disciples, with wives and children, escorted us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we boarded the ship and they returned home.

We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. There, we greeted the brethren and spent the day with them. The following day, we, Paul's companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus

came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit: 'Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus."

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, "The Lord's will be done!"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 12:5b-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

*My child, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord, do not faint when you are reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he also chastens, and he disciplines every son whom he receives.*

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are not getting this discipline, (as you are), this makes you illegitimate, not children! Moreover, we had biological fathers to chasten us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of {our} spirits, and live? Our fathers punished us for a few days as seemed good to them; but God does so for our benefit, so that we may be partakers of his holiness. For the present moment, all discipline seems to be

painful rather than joyful, but afterwards, it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift up your drooping hands and your feeble knees. Make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and also sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. Be careful, for fear that anyone might fall short of the grace of God or that any root of bitterness should trouble you; many are poisoned by this. Be careful that there is no sexually immoral or profane person [among you], like Esau who sold his birthright for a meal.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:15-5:5

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer or a meddler in other people's matters. However, if one of you suffers for

being a Christian, there is no reason to be ashamed but {instead let such a one} glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to

begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who do not obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him who is a faithful Creator.

I exhort the presbyters among you, as the fellow-presbyter and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who will also share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds to the flock of God which is in your care. Do not oversee the flock under compulsion but willingly,

not for dishonest gain but with eagerness. Do not act as lords over those entrusted to you but become examples to the flock. When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 15:36-16:3

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us revisit our brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing!” Barnabas planned to take John (who was called Mark) along with them. But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. Then, the disagreement became so intense that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose

Silas and having been entrusted by the brethren to the grace of God, they departed. Paul went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.

Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple named Timothy lived there. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. This disciple was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have Timothy along on the journey, so he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts,

since all knew that his father was a Greek.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 5:16-6:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I say this: walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. What the [fallen] flesh desires is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh! Yes, these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now, the works of the flesh are obvious. They are: adultery, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, the practice of magic, hatred, strife, selfish ambitions, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, excess drinking, orgies, and similar things. About these, I warn you, as I have done in the past: those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law! Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit! Let us not become arrogant, challenging and envying one another.

Brethren, even if someone is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. But watch out for yourself in order not to be tempted. Bear each others' burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

James 5:7-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it,

until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard

of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 26:1b-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. "I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King

Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

As for myself, I certainly thought that it was my duty to oppose the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. I also did this in Jerusalem: having received authority from the chief priests, I had many of the saints imprisoned, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Often I went to all the synagogues to have them punished and I tried to make them blaspheme. Filled with rage against them, I even persecuted them in foreign cities.

Then, as I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission from the chief priests, at noon, O king, I saw on the way a light from the sky. It was brighter than the sun and shone around me and those who were traveling with me. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

It is hard for you to kick against the goads!

I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

He replied, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting! But arise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness both of what you have seen and of what I will reveal to you. I will rescue you from

the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and receive remission of sins as well as an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan's operation with all kinds of power, miracles and

lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 2 Peter 3:1-18

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should

come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him. He does so in all his letters, speaking of these things. But his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in

advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be

the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 26:19-27:8

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. I first proclaimed this to the people of Damascus, Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea. Then, I also proclaimed it to the Gentiles; that they should repent, turn to God, and do works worthy of [their] repentance. For this reason, the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. Yet, having obtained God's help, I stand to this day and bear witness to small and great alike. I only say what the prophets and Moses said would happen, how the Christ must suffer, and how, by the resurrection of the dead, he would be first to proclaim light both to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles."

As Paul was presenting this defense, Festus exclaimed with a loud voice, "Paul, you are crazy! Your great learning is driving you insane!"

But Paul replied, "I am not crazy, Most Excellent Festus, but boldly declare words of truth and good sense. Indeed, the king is aware of

these things and I will also speak freely to him. For I am convinced that none of this is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe!"

Agrippa then said to Paul, "With a little persuasion, are you trying to make me a Christian?"

Paul answered, "I pray to God, that whether with little or with much, not only you but also all that hear me today might become as I am, except for these chains."

The king rose up with the governor, along with Bernice and those who sat with them. After retiring, they talked together and agreed, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment." Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, the authorities delivered Paul and other prisoners to

a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail to various places on the coast of Asia and put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, traveled with us. The next day, we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul with kindness and gave him permission to visit his friends and to be cared for. Putting to sea from there, we sailed under [the shelter of] Cyprus because the winds were contrary. After sailing across the open sea off [the coasts of]

Cilicia and Pamphylyia, we arrived in Myra, a city of Lycia. There, the centurion found a ship sailing from Alexandria to Italy, and he put us on board. After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived with difficulty near Cnidus. The wind did not allow us to go further [on course], we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone. We sailed along the coast and arrived at a place called 'Fair Havens', near the city of Lasea.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As for other matters, brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus: as you received from us how you should live to please God, may you make progress in this ever more! For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. This is the will of God: your sanctification, and that you abstain from sexual immorality. Each one of you should know how to practice self-control of the body in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passions, as Gentiles who do not know God. No one should take advantage of or wrong a brother [or sister] in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we warned you

and testified to you. Certainly, God did not call us for impurity but to sanctification! Therefore, whoever rejects this does not reject a human [command], but God, who has also given his Holy Spirit to you.

But concerning brotherly love, you have no need that one should write to you since you have learned from God how to love one another, and this is what you do toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to overflow even more! Make it your goal to lead a quiet life, to take care of your own affairs, and to work with your own hands, even as we instructed you. Thus, you will live properly in the

sight of those who are outside and you will lack nothing.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those who have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede

those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 4:7-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak against one another, brethren. Whoever speaks against one

of the brethren and judges speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge! Only one is the lawgiver, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 18:9-18b

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, “Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law.”

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were complaining about a

matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters.” And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 14:18-28

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they

hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the

secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone

speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:22-2:1

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Be 'doers of the word'; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a 'hearer of the word' and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not

bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 19:11-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that

had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This

became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## **Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

Romans 2:12-24

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately

accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth. You

therefore who teach another, [why] do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, [why] do you steal? You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who

glory in the law by your disobedience of the law, [why] do you dishonor God? For “the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:20-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Know this first of all, that no interpretation of Scriptural prophecy happens as something private, because no prophecy ever came by human will: holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the truth will be brought into disrepute. They will exploit you greedily with deceptive words. Their sentence, pronounced long ago, does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 26:1-8

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself."

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. "I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among

my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers! This is what our twelve tribes hope to attain as they constantly offer divine service night and day. It is concerning this hope that I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! Why is it judged incredible that God raises the dead?

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 2:1-3:4

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, I encourage that first of all, petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all: for kings and all in high places, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and piety. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all - this testimony [was given] in its own times. I was appointed a preacher and an apostle of

these things (I am telling the truth in Christ, not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire, therefore, that in every place, the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or doubting. In the same way, women should wear decent clothing, modest and fitting, without elaborate hairstyle, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, but with good works (which is fitting for women professing godliness). Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam

was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of

one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

Jude 1:19-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

These are these ones who cause divisions, because they are sensual, deprived of the Spirit. But you, beloved, keep on building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [that leads] to eternal life. Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 27:16-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Cluda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat.

After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground

on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship's tackle with their own hands.

When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."<sup>a</sup> Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day

twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the ages<sup>b</sup> have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:12-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 8:9-17

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concern-

ing the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

Now, when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they

arrived, they prayed for them, so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them. They had only been baptized in the Name of Christ

Jesus. Then, Peter and Johnb laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:1-7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were

called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:13-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, "You

shall be holy, for I am holy." If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone's work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the

blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so

that your faith and hope might be in God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 27:9-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

A great deal of time had been lost and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast was now already passed. Paul gave them this warning: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will result in injuries and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives!” However, the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul was saying. Since the haven was not suitable to spend the winter, the majority was in favor of continuing and to do our utmost to reach Phoenix and winter there. This is a port of Crete which faces both the northeast and the southeast.

When the south wind began to blow softly, they thought that their goal was within reach. Having lifted the anchor, they sailed along [the coast of]

Crete, close to shore. But before long, a violent wind called ‘the northeastern’ rushed down from the island! The ship was caught and could not face the wind. We had to yield to

the wind and the ship was driven along. Sailing under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the lifeboat. After the crew had hoisted it up, they used it to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship drift along. We were so battered by the storm that the next day, the men began to throw things overboard. On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars had shone on us for many days, and with a major storm pressing on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away.

As the men had been for a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, “Sirs, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete; then you would have avoided this injury and loss. Now, I encourage you to keep your courage, for there will be no loss

of life among you, but only of the ship. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I offer divine service stood by me. He said: ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar. Behold, God has granted you [the life] all

those who sail with you.’ Therefore, sirs, be of good cheer! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me. However, we must run aground on some island.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

## The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 3:5-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of

compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:13-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to

believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything

according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to

us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin;

whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 27:27-37

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

On the fourteenth night, at about midnight, as we were driven back and forth in the Adriatic Sea, the sailors surmised that they were approaching some land. They measured the depth of water and found twenty fathoms. A little while later, they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on rocky ground, they let down four anchors from the stern, hoping to hold steady until daylight. Trying escape from the ship, sailors lowered the lifeboat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow. Paul then said to the

centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved!” So the soldiers cut away the ropes of the lifeboat and let it fall off.

As the day was coming on, Paul begged them all to take some food, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that you wait and continue fasting, taking nothing. Now, I urge you to take some food! This is for your safety, and not a hair will perish from any of your heads.” When he had said this and taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all. Then he broke it and began to eat. At

this, they all cheered up and also took food. In all, we were two hundred

seventy-six souls on the ship.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 14:10-15:2

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But [as for] you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. As it is written:

*'As I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow to me;*

*Every tongue will confess to God.'*

And so, each of us will give a personal account to God. Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. Instead, resolve that no one should put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion for falling.

In the Lord Jesus, I know and I am convinced that nothing is unclean of itself. But to the one who considers anything to be unclean, to such a one it is unclean! Yet, if because of food your brother is grieved, you no longer walk in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Thus, do not let what is good to you become a cause of evil things being said, because the Kingdom of God is not [about] eating and drinking, but [it is about] righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Certainly, whoever serves Christ in

these things is acceptable to God and approved by all. And so, let us pursue things which cause peace, and things by which we may edify one another. Do not overthrow God's work for the sake of food! All things indeed are clean; however it is evil for someone to create a stumbling block by eating. It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves. But the one who doubts is condemned if by eating, it is not of faith. Whatever is not of faith is sin.

Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages but is now revealed, and who by the Scriptures of the prophets (according to the commandment of the eternal God,) is made known for obedience of faith to

all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and

not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:5-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever

keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not commit murder." Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 9:22-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Saul grew even more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that [Jesus] is the Christ.

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him

by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the

name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 14:5-17

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even

more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave

an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit

prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one

who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15a

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the

coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, as you look for these things, to your utmost to be found in peace, without blemish and blameless in his sight. Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation\*[; even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him]\*.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

\*[] Lacking in Kitchener. Found in Ottawa and Southern United States.

## The Praxis

Acts 22:17-24

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

It happened that, when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. I saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. When the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I too was standing by, consenting to his death and guarding the garment of those who killed him.’

Then he said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.’”

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice, and shouted, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

As they cried out, throwing off their cloaks and dust into the air, the commanding officer ordered him to be brought into the barracks. He commanded that Paul should be examined under scourging, so that he might find out for what crime the people shouted against him in such a way.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;” that is, the

word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For,

“Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 1:13-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

When temptations come, let no one say, “I am tempted by God,” because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by

the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 19:23-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, “Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through

this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:5-18

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For we do not preach [about] ourselves, but [about] Christ Jesus as Lord, and [we present] ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus, seeing that it is God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And

so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:13-24

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance

in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 25:23-26:6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

On the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had made their entry with great pomp, they went to the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the leaders of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man. The entire Jewish community, both in Jerusalem and here, petitioned me about him, clamoring that he should not live any

longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself had appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him {to Rome}. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning this man! Therefore, I have brought him forth before you [all], and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after examination, I may have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prison-

er without also specifying the charges against him."

Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself."

Then Paul held up his hand and made his defense. "I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that today, I am able to make my defense before you in response to all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are an expert in all customs and debates which take place among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

Indeed, all the Jews know about my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem. Since they have known me from the beginning, they could testify that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. And now, I stand here on trial because of the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Last Friday of Great Lent

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 3:1-4:5

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But know that in the last days, troubled times will come. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful and unholy. [They will be] without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, no lovers of good, treacherous, stubborn, self-important, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having an appearance of godliness but having rejected its [inner] meaning. Stay away from these people too. Indeed, some of these creep into houses and captivate gullible women who are burdened with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning yet

never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Even as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, these people also oppose the truth. They are mentally corrupted and as far as the faith is concerned, they are rejected. But they will not go very far because their folly will be evident to all, as in the case of Jannes and Jambres.

You, however, have paid close attention to my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings. You know what happened to me at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I endured those persecutions and the Lord delivered me out of them all! Yes, all those who desire to lead godly

lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, being themselves deceived. As for you, remain in what you have learned which is what you firmly believe, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully qualified, completely equipped for every good work.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and

the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom, I charge you to preach the word. Welcome or unwelcome, insist on it; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, they will gather around them teachers that agree with their own lusts. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. As for you, be sober in all things, put up with suffering, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### James 5:7-16a

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also should be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Brethren, do not grumble against one another, so that you will not be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door! Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them

blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters

of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be

forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 15:1-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then, certain men came down from Judea and taught the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!” As a result, Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and controversy with them. Therefore, the brethren appointed Paul, Barnabas and some of their own to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. Having been sent on their way by the Church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the Gentiles and causing great joy to all the brethren. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!”

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them. When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God

first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*'After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of  
David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.  
I will set it up,*

*That the rest of men may seek after  
the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by  
my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these  
things.*

*All his works are known to God  
from eternity.'*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

# **GREAT AND HOLY WEEK**

## Lazarus Saturday

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1-8

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not stand by human wisdom but in the power of God. However, we [do]

speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom ‘not of this world’, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built

up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 27:38-28:10

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea. When day came, they did not recognize the land but noticed a cove with a beach, and they decided to try to drive the ship onto it. Casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time untying the rudder ropes. Hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But coming to a place with cross-currents, they beached the vessel. The front of the ship struck and remained immovable while the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves.

The soldiers' advice was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first and go to shore. The rest should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to the land.

Once safe on the shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness; they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining

and cold. But as Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks and placing them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "There is no doubt that this man is a murderer! He has escaped from the sea but Justice has not allowed him to live." However, Paul shook off the creature into the fire and remained unharmed. Nevertheless, they expected that he would have swollen or suddenly fallen down dead. After watching for a long time and seeing nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god!

Now, in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leader of the island, [a man] named Publius who welcomed us and courteously entertained us for three days. It also happened that Publius' father was bedridden, sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the people who had diseases in the island also came, and they were cured. They honored us in many ways, and when we sailed off,

put on board the things that we  
needed.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

# Palm Sunday

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:11-28

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (sprinkling those who have been defiled) could sanctify to restore the purity of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to offer divine service to the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the sins that were under the first covenant, so that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where there is a last will and testament, there must also be the death of the one who made it. A will comes into effect after death; it is never in force while the one who made it is still alive. That is why even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when

Moses had proclaimed every commandment to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."

Moreover, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way, with the blood. According to the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and there is no remission [of sins] if there is no shedding of blood. Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things should be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves [had to be purified] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true [holy places], but into heaven itself in order to appear in the presence of God for us. Yet, this did not take place so that he would offer himself often, as the [Levitical] high priest does when he enters into the holy place year by year, not with their own blood. Otherwise, he would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world.

But now, at the end of the ages, he has been revealed once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed for humans to die once, and after this come the judgment. It is the same with Christ: having been

offered once to bear the sins of many, he will appear a second time, apart from sin-offering, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings

but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 28:11-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Three months later, we set sail in a ship from Alexandria which had wintered in the island, whose figure-head was “The Twin Brothers.” Touching at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. From there, we circled around [the coastline] and arrived at Rhegium. The following day, a south wind sprang up and on the second day, we arrived in Puteoli. There, we found brethren who entreated us to stay with them for seven days. And so, we approached Rome.

From there, having heard of us, the brethren came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. When we reached Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

Three days later, Paul called together those who were the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. After putting me on trial, the Romans wanted to release me because there

was no grounds to put me to death. But when the Jews spoke against it, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything about which to accuse my nation. For this reason, therefore, I asked to see you and to speak with you, for it is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

They answered him, “We have not received letters from Judea concerning you, and no brother has come here to make a report or speak any evil of you. But we desire to hear from you what you think because it is known to us that everywhere, people speak against this sect.”

After making an appointment with Paul for a certain day, many more people visited him at his place of residence. From morning until evening, he explained and bore witness about [the things of] the Kingdom of God. He also tried to convince the Jews concerning Jesus, [quoting] both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. Some believed what was spoken, and others did not. Although disagreeing among themselves, they left after Paul had spoken one [last] word, “Rightly did the Holy Spirit speak to our fathers through Isaias the prophet, saying:

*'Go to this people, and say:  
You will keep on hearing but never  
understand!  
You will keep on seeing but never  
perceive!  
For this people's heart has grown  
callous,  
Their ears are dull of hearing,  
And they have closed their eyes,  
For fear that should see with their  
eyes, hear with their ears,  
Understand with their heart, and  
would repent,  
And I would heal them.'*

Therefore, you should know that God's salvation is sent to the nations; they will listen!"

After Paul said these words, the Jews departed with a great dispute among themselves.

So Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house, receiving everyone who came to visit him. With all boldness and without hindrance, he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## **The Pauline Epistle of the General Burial After Palm Sunday**

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-23**

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child

born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether it is I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in

vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are

the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive. But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ's, at his coming.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Monday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

Brethren, if we wish to escape from the retribution of God, and find mercy before Him, let us sit at the end of every day alone, by ourselves, after dinner. Let us then search ourselves concerning what we have offered to the angel who is accompanying us to serve us, that he may bring up to the Lord.

Again, when the night is over and the morning has broken, let us search ourselves alone, to find out what we have offered to the angel to whom we were entrusted, that he may offer up to the Lord. We should have no doubt that every one, whether he be male or female, young or old, who has been baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, has been assigned an angel

from God, that accompanies him until the day of his departure.

This angel ascends unto God every day that he may bring up to God the deeds, done in the day or through the night, by the person entrusted to him. Not that God is ignorant of our deeds—God forbid! For He is all-knowing, as it is also written, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”<sup>1</sup> Rather the angels are ministering spirits created by God, the Creator of all, for the sake of those about to inherit salvation.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen*

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 15:3

### The Eleventh Hour of Monday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.*

There are deeds that seem to us good, but they are evil before God: As when we see someone who sins in the holy places and we, by being patient with him, make him continue

in his evil. For God did not plant in Paradise good and bad trees, but rather planted good and fruitful trees only. Not only that, but the man Whom He put in Paradise, when he

disobeyed, He did not ignore what he did, but drove him out of it.

From this, we know, my beloved brethren, that the holy houses of God should not be filled with both good and evil people, even as the world which is filled with sinners and saints. Rather, admonish every one that behaves unseemly in the house of God. I know that the whole earth is the Lord's, but if we treat His house as the rest of the earth, what then distinguishes it from every place else? And if I, as a priest do the same evil that the wicked of the world do, then I have no right to be called a priest.

Many times we sin and yet do not know how to condemn ourselves. No one will dare to fill your house with dirt except he perceives that you are complacent. And the door keepers of the king will not dare to bring into his house everyone whether he be a keeper of his commandments or a breaker of them, except with his orders. And those who act otherwise shall be punished.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Holy Pascha

### The First Hour of Tuesday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I shall tell you two things. All those for whom there was joy in heaven, on account of their repentance, shall see neither sorrow nor pain in the place they are about to inherit. But those for whom there was no joy in heaven, because they did not turn from their sins, neither repented from their iniquities, shall see neither joy nor repose in that place. For those who live in luxury and enjoyment on earth shall see neither joy nor repose in heaven.<sup>1</sup> Have you not heard, what the Lord said, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted”? Likewise, those who see no joy in earth, shall have joy in heaven.<sup>1</sup> Have you not heard, “Woe unto you who laugh now! for you shall mourn and weep”?

Is not this the time in which the weak shall be clothed with strength, in which the weak shall say, “I am

strong,”<sup>2</sup> when he gives his heart to the scripture? Even as the prophet has said, “Many are those whose flesh became weakened through the multitude of their adulteries; their hearts also shall be weakened.”<sup>3</sup> Those of whom the scripture also says, “He shall be destroyed in the uncleanness of his soul.”<sup>4</sup> As for those who strive valiantly, it was said about them, “Make haste to show yourself approved of God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”<sup>5</sup>

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.*

<sup>1</sup>Luke 16:19-23

<sup>2</sup>Luke 16:20-22

<sup>3</sup>Joel 3:10

<sup>4</sup>Source unknown

<sup>5</sup>2 Timothy 2:15

### The Eleventh Hour of Tuesday of the of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I would like to remind you, brethren, of what I told you several times, whenever we partook of the holy Mysteries of Christ. When I see your recklessness and lack of awe, that calls for weeping, I weep by myself, saying in my mind, “Do they realize before Whom they are standing? And do they know the power of this Mystery?” It is then that I become angry against my will, and wish that I could walk away from among you because of the anguish of my soul.

When I rebuke one of you, he does not take heed to what I say, but rather murmurs against me, as if I had done him injustice. What a great wonder! that you do not get angry with those who do violence to you

and defraud you, as much as you do with me—I, who am jealous for your salvation and fearful that the punishment of God may befall you, on account of your carelessness in regard to this great Mystery.

I wonder if you know Who He is that you desire to partake of! This is the holy Body of God the Logos, and His Blood, which He shed for our salvation. This is He of Whom, if one partakes unworthily, he will get guilt and damnation, like Judas who partook unworthily.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Saint John Chrysostom, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.*

## Wednesday of Holy Week

### The First Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

I shall say these words, and not leave them behind: Do not think that after the chaff is separated from the wheat,<sup>1</sup> the sinners will have rest. I tell you, as the scripture also bears witness, that on that day, the angels, the archangels and also the saints shall keep silent, and the Logos of God shall have the final and complete judgment. The sinners will be separated from the righteous, and immediately the sinners are cast into the unquenchable fire.<sup>1</sup> Do you think that God is like the sons of men? to have a counsellor or a companion

Whom He should ask? What can be forgotten by God, that another can answer? Or, whom would God ask for a word? Rather, all will say this saying with one mouth: “O Judge of truth, righteous are Thy judgments! O Thou Who gives each one according to his deeds, it is not unto us to remind Thee of these things, for all compassion is of Thee.”

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.*

*1Matthew 3:12*

### The Eleventh Hour of Wednesday of Holy Week

#### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Servarion of Gabala. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

Brethren, let me remind you now of that voice that shall come upon the sinners and those who abandon the Law and the commandments of life. For He shall say, “Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire.”<sup>1</sup> What comfort will those hope for after that? Here indeed is the valley of weeping, the place in which shall be tears. These are the tears after which

there shall be no consolation. Who shall be able to comfort sinners on that day? For the angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim shall keep silent, together with all the righteous and the just. None of them will be able to comfort mankind on that day. The whole creation shall stand silently, and the whole world will be under the just divine judgment. This is the

time of the harvest,<sup>2</sup> this is the time of drawing the net to the shore, and separating the good from the bad.<sup>3</sup> This is the time when it shall be said unto the sinners, “Go ye into Amenti, your abode forever.”

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Severian, who enlightened our minds and the*

*eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen*

*1Matthew 25:41*

*2Matthew 13:30*

*3Matthew 13:47-50*

# **Maundy Thursday**

## **The First Hour of Maundy Thursday**

### **The Praxis**

Acts 1:15-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: “Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst

open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called ‘Akeldama,’ that is, ‘The field of blood.’)

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*Let his habitation be made desolate,  
And let no one dwell in it;*

and,

*Let another take his office of overseer.*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

### **The Prayer Over the Baisen (Lakane)**

### **The Homily**

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Shenoute the Archmandrite. May his blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, let us now be remorseful before Him, Who suffered for us, and be fearful of Him, Who girded Himself with a towel, poured water in a basin and washed the feet of His Disciples with His pure hands. Let us bring forth fruits that are worthy of this great humility, which He mani-

fested for our sake. Let us repent speedily from our sins, which we have committed. For, if we do not repent, then we will be spoken of in heaven as lovers of sin. What hope have we then, if we are driven out of heaven, if we are cast into condemnation? We will be repaid double for our sins,

not only for those we committed unknowingly, but also because those we committed knowingly are even worse; not only because we have sinned, but also because we have not repented.

Why did the sheep not know the voice of the Life-Giving True Shepherd, neither did they follow Him? Those, whom He hath pur-

chased with His own blood, and for whom He gave Himself up; He, Who gave us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink! Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; Jesus, God, the Son of the Most High God, Who dwells in the highest forever.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Shenoute, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Timothy 4:9-5:10

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance. For this purpose, we work hard and experience rejection, because we have placed our trust in the living God who is the Savior of all, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to public reading, encouragement and teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the council of presbyters. Be attentive in these things. Give yourself to them completely, so that your progress may be manifest to all. Watch yourself and your teaching. Continue in these things! In doing so, you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Do not [sharply] rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers; older women as mothers; the younger as sisters, in all purity. Honor widows who are truly widows. But if any widow has children or grand-children, let them first learn how to carry out their religious duty towards their own family, and to repay their parents. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God. Those who are truly widows and destitute are the ones who have placed their hope in God and who persevere in petitions and prayers night and day. But those who live in luxury are dead even as they live. Give strict orders regarding these matters, so that they may be without reproach. If anyone does not provide for his own, especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever! Only widows who are more than sixty years

old and who were married to one man should be enrolled as widows. They should be approved by good works: having brought up children, been hospitable to strangers, washed

the saints' feet, relieved the afflicted, and pursued every good work with attention.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Liturgy

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For I received from the Lord what also I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me." Likewise, he also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord's cup in a manner unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let everyone do a self-examination, and then eat the bread and drink from

the cup. For whoever eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, if such a one does not discern the body of the Lord. For this reason, many among you are weak and sick, and many have fallen asleep. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged, but when we are judged, we are chastised by the Lord, so that we may not be condemned with the world. Therefore, my brethren, when you come together for the Meal, wait for one another. But anyone who is hungry should eat at home, in fear that your coming together might be for judgment. Other matters, I will set in order when I come.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

# Great and Holy Friday

## The First Hour of Great and Holy Friday

### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Saint John Chrysostom. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

What shall we say, beloved brethren, about the treachery of Judas, who surrendered his Lord. It is said, that one of the twelve, namely Judas Iscariot, went and said unto the high priests, “What will ye give me and I will deliver Him unto you?” And they promised him thirty pieces of silver. What great foolishness!

How evil can love of money be! that which is the root of all evil. For when he coveted it, he sold his Good Master. How evil is the love of money! It is the root of all evil, and the souls that fall prey to it become mad, and ignorant of themselves,

without knowledge of everything, and forsaking the law of nature. Their heart fails and they are stupefied.

Consider how much goodness the love of money drove out from the soul of Judas. For our Lord Jesus Christ spoke to them openly about the terrors of Hades and the joys of the Kingdom of heaven. For everyone knows the torment of the sinners and the honour due to those who strive to save themselves.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Saint John Chrysostom, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 1:23-2:5\*

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks. However, to those who are called, (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, because God’s ‘foolishness’ is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Consider your calling, brethren, that not many [among you] were wise according to the flesh, not many powerful, and not [many] of noble birth. Nevertheless, God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are ‘wise’. [Yes], God chose the weak things of the world in order to put to shame the

things that are strong. God also chose the lowly things of the world, the things that are despised, and the things that are not, so that he might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh should boast before God. But by God's doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts should boast in the Lord."

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of

speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not stand by human wisdom but in the power of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

\*Not found in Kitchener or Coptic Reader.

## The Third Hour of Great and Holy Friday

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 2:13-15\*

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, but he made you alive with him by forgiving us all our trespasses and by wiping out the handwriting of ordinances which was against us. He

set this aside, nailing it to the cross, having exposed the principalities and powers, making a public display of them, and triumphing over them.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

\*Not found in Kitchener or Coptic Reader.

## The Sixth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 6:14-18

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. In Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation {is significant}. To those who live by this rule, may there be peace and mercy

upon them, and on the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Ninth Hour of Great and Holy Friday

### The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 2:4-11

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Philippians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not just look after you own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found

in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Eleventh Hour of Great and Holy Friday

### The Homily

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

It is written in the books, that if our souls are bound by the Law of God, then the powers of darkness cannot prevail over us. But, if we depart away from God, they will overpower us.

Therefore, if you wish to be saved, meditate on God's rich love and wisdom. Stretch your hands in the likeness of the Cross to cross over that great sea which is this world, and thus reach God. Stay away from those things that hinder you from crossing over, such things as belong to those who are outside the catholic Church. I mean, disbelief, fornication, gossip, and love of mon-ey, which is the root of all evil.

Behold, the sign of the Cross is spread over all the creation! For, if

the sun stretches not its rays, it cannot give light, and so too the moon. The birds also, if they stretch not their wings, cannot fly, and the ships too, if they stretch not their sails, cannot sail.

Behold, Moses, the archprophet, when he spread his arms, conquered Amalek; and Thekla, when she was thrown unto the lions, was saved through the sign of the Cross.

Find your comfort in the Church, where you are nourished by the scripture, and by the heavenly bread, and the blood of Christ.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Athanasius, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen*

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Galatians 3:1b-6

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Christ was openly presented before your eyes as crucified—who then bewitched you not to obey the truth? I just want to hear this from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you that sensless that having begun in the Spirit, you now

end in the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain, if it is indeed in vain? He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.”

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

# Bright Saturday

## Morning or Prime

### The Homily<sup>1</sup>

*A homily of our saintly father, Abba Athanasius the Apostolic. May his blessing be with us. Amen.*

Again, the season of the feast has come, O beloved brethren, which indeed, is always with us who rejoice in the Lord, according to what is written, and is shown again, now to every one through him who was sent to proclaim it, “Celebrate thy feasts, perform thy vows, O Judah.”<sup>2</sup> For the fruit of our actions is brought yearly to the Lord Who has commanded it, in a pure conscience. As with a farmer’s implement,<sup>3</sup> we bring up in a basket the fruit of the works of the year to the Lord Who has commanded us. And again we shall blossom, being watered, indeed, from the source of salvation, and planted in the vineyard of the Lord, as shoots we stretch out unto the things which are before. Neither disobey Him Who said, “Thou shalt observe the new month and keep the Passover of the Lord thy God.”<sup>4</sup> For the Passover is not of men, but of God; and as a manifestation of this we shall forsake the old works that we may be renewed by the new works which the

Jews did not understand, who are now without feast.

When it is said, “Thou shalt keep the Passover of the Lord thy God,” we bring to nought the craft of these. For He informs us that it is not merely a commandment of this sort, but a figure of a work which is perfected towards God. For this saying, “Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness,” and the rest of the commandments, have an admonition for us; for they admonish the soul and are an exhortation to an upright life. In this is the victory of the crown of the elect in heaven.

*Let us conclude the homily of our saintly father Abba Athanasius, who enlightened our minds and the eyes of our hearts, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God. Amen*

1 O.H.E. Burmester: *Homilies of the Holy Week Lectionary*. (edited)

2 Nah 1:15

3 The share of the produce a farmer had to give to the Landlord. (According to the custom at the time of writing)

4 Deut 16:1

## The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthinas 5:7-13

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Purge out the old yeast, so that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter to have no fellowship with those who are immoral; yet I did not mean with the immoral people of this world, or with those who are greedy, dishonest, or idolaters; or else you would have to

leave the world! But as it is, I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside? Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Apocalypse

This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things which must happen soon. He sent it and made it known by his angel to his servant, John, who testified about everything that he saw: to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the one who reads the words of the prophecy and blessed are those who hear and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is at hand!

John, to the seven Churches that are in Asia [Minor]: May grace and peace be with you from God, [the

one] who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven spirits who are before his throne; and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us, washed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom and priests to his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion unto the ages. Amen.

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. It shall be so! Amen!

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

I John, your brother and partner with you in oppression, in the Kingdom and in perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God's Word and the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last! What you see, write in a book and send to the seven Churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

I turned around to see the voice that had spoken to me. Having done so, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to his feet, and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and his hair were as white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like fine brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters. He had seven stars in his right hand and out of his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man.

He laid his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last, and the Living one. I was

dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore! Amen. I have the keys of death and of hades. Therefore, write the things which you have seen, the things which are now and the things which will happen in the future. Write about the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven Churches and the seven lampstands are seven Churches.

**To the angel of the Church in Ephesus write:**

He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks among the seven golden lampstands says these things:

"I know your works, your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men. You have tested those who call themselves apostles although they are not and you have found them to be false. With perseverance you have endured much for my Name's sake; you have worked hard and not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works. Otherwise, I am coming to you swiftly and I will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right

to eat from the tree of life which is in the Paradise of my God.”

**To the angel of the Church in Smyrna, write:**

The first and the last, who was dead and who has come to life says these things:

“I know your works, you oppression and your poverty (but you are rich). I know the blasphemy of those who say that they are Jews even though they are not; instead, they are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to endure. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. The one who overcomes will not be harmed by the second death.”

**To the angel of the Church in Pergamum, write:**

He who has the sharp two-edged sword says these things:

“I know your works and where you live, which is where Satan’s throne is located. You hold firmly to my Name and you have not denied my faith in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam. He was one who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children

of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans which I hate. Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. To the one who overcomes I will give [to eat] of the hidden manna and I will give a white stone. On the stone a new name is written, which no one knows but the one who receives it.”

**To the angel of the Church in Thyatira, write:**

The Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass, says these things:

“I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance and I know that your last works are more abundant than the first ones. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess. She seduces my servants by teaching them to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her into a bed [of pain] and I will throw those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, unless they repent of her works. I will kill her children with death and all the Churches will know that I am the one who searches the minds and hearts. I will render to each one of you

according to your deeds. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, those who do not follow this teaching and who do not know what some call ‘the deep things of Satan,’ to you I say this: I am not putting any other burden on you. Nevertheless, hold what you have with determination until I come. To the ones who overcomes and who keeps my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations. They will rule the nations with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots; as I also have received of my Father: and I will give them the morning star. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

**And to the angel of the Church in Sardis write:**

He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars says these things:

“I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive when in fact you are dead. Wake up and hold on to what remains, which were about to die, for I have not found any of your works perfected before my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent! But if you refuse to watch, I will come as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. Nevertheless, you have a few names in Sardis that have not defiled their garments. They will walk with me in white [garments] because they are worthy. The one who overcomes will be vested in white garments and I

will not blot his name from the book of life. I will confess that person’s name before my Father and before his angels. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

**To the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, write:**

He who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, who opens and no one can shut, who shuts and no one opens, says these things:

“I know your works! Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut! I know that you have a little power, that you have kept my word and you have not denied my Name. Behold, those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and they are not, but lie. Behold, I will make them come and worship before your feet and they will know that I have loved you. Because you have kept my command to endure, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is about to come on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly! Hold firmly to what you have, so that no one may take your crown. The one who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the sanctuary of my God, from which he shall never be removed. On such a person I will write the Name of my God, the name of the city of my God which is the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from my God, and [I will write] my own new Name. Whoever

has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

**To the angel of the Church in Laodicea, write:**

The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the origin of God’s creation, says these things:

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. But because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich, I have obtained wealth and I have need of nothing’ and yet you do not know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked! I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may become rich; and white garments, so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. Buy also ointment to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. As many as I love, I reprove and discipline. Therefore, be zealous and repent! Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and I will have supper with him, and he with me. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has an ear should listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

After these things I looked and saw a door opened in heaven. The first voice that I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me. It was

saying, “Come up here, and I will show you the things which must happen after this.”

Immediately, I was in the Spirit and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne who had the appearance of jasper and ruby. There was a rainbow around the throne with the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones were twenty-four presbyters sitting, vested in white robes, with crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne, lightning, sounds, and thunders came forth. There were seven lamps of fire burning before his throne, which are the seven spirits of God. Before the throne, there was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal. In the center and around the throne, there were four living creatures full of eyes on all sides. The first creature was like a lion, the second creature like a calf, the third creature had a human face and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each one of the four living creatures had six wings, full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!”*

When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives unto ages of ages, the twenty-four presbyters fall down before him who sits on the throne and they worship

him who lives unto ages of ages. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created!"*

In the right hand of the one who sat on the throne, I saw a scroll written inside and outside, sealed shut with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" But no one in heaven above, or on earth, or under the earth, was able to open the scroll or to look in it. And so I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look in it. One of the presbyters said to me:

*"Do not weep! Behold, the Lion who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome; he who opens the book and its seven seals."*

I saw in the center of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the presbyters, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then the Lamb came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four presbyters fell down before the Lamb, each one having a harp and golden bowls full of in-

cense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sang a new song, saying:

*You are worthy to take the book,  
and to open its seals:  
for you were killed,  
and bought us for God with your  
blood,  
out of every tribe, language, people,  
and nation.*

*You have made us kings and priests  
to our God,  
and we will reign on earth.*

I saw and I heard something like the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the presbyters. The number of those speaking was ten thousands of ten thousands, and thousands of thousands. They were saying with a loud voice:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who has been killed to receive the power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing!"*

I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them, saying:

*"To him who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb  
be the blessing, the honor, the glory,  
and the dominion,  
unto ages of ages!"*

The four living creatures said, "Amen!", and the twenty-four presbyters fell down and worshiped.

I saw that the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice of thunder, "Come and see!" And behold, there was a white horse

and its rider had a bow. A crown was given to him, and he came forth to conquer and intent on conquering.

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. To its rider was given power to take peace from the earth, so that people should kill each other, and a great sword was given to him.

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come and see!" And behold, there was a black horse and its rider had a balance in his hand. I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wage and three quarts of barley for a day's wage! Do not damage the oil and the wine!"

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature say, "Come and see!" And behold, a pale horse, and the name of its rider was Death, and Hades followed him. He was given authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine, with death, and by the wild animals of the earth.

When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed for the sake of the word of God and for their witness to the Lamb. They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, holy and true Master, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" A long white robe was

given to each of them. They were told to rest for a while longer, until their fellow-servants and brethren (who would also be killed as they were) should complete their course.

When the Lamb opened the sixth seal, I saw that there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as a coarse sackcloth, and the whole moon became as blood. The stars of the sky fell to the earth, like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when it is shaken by a great wind. The sky was removed like a scroll when it is rolled up. Every mountain and island were removed from their places. At this, the kings of the earth, the princes, commanding officers, the rich, the strong, every slave and free person sought to hide themselves in the caves and the rocks of the mountains. They said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of his wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. They were holding the four winds of the earth so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. I saw another angel ascend from the rising sun with the seal of the living God [in his hand]. He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of our God on

their foreheads!" I heard the number of those who were sealed: one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel:

*of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand,*  
*of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.*

After these things I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried with a loud voice, saying:

*"Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!"*

All the angels were standing around the throne, along with the

presbyters and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before his throne and worshiped God, saying:

*"Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God unto ages of ages! Amen."*

Then one of the presbyters spoke and asked me, "Who are these who are arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" I told him, "My lord, you know!"

He said to me, "These are those who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and they offer divine service to him day and night in his sanctuary. He who sits on the throne will tabernacle with them. They will never be hungry or thirsty any more. Neither heat nor sun will ever scorch them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne is their shepherd. He leads them to the springs of the waters of life and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. I saw the seven angels who stand before God and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer. A lot of incense was given to him, so that the angel should add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. The

smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. The angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it upon the earth, causing thunder, voices, lightning and an earthquake.

Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

The first sounded, and there followed hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. One third of the earth was burnt up and also one third of the trees, along with all green grass.

The second angel sounded, and something like a great burning mountain was thrown into the sea. One third of the sea became blood, one third of the living creatures which were in the sea died, and one third of the ships were destroyed.

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one third of the rivers and on the springs of the waters. The name of the star is "Wormwood" and one third of the waters became wormwood. Many people died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

The fourth angel sounded, and one third of the sun was struck, one third of the moon, and one third of the stars, so that one third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way. Then I saw and heard an eagle flying in mid-

heaven, proclaiming with a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who dwell on the earth, because the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels are yet to sound!"

The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth. The key to the pit of the abyss was given to him. He opened the pit of the abyss and smoke went up out of the pit, like smoke from an enormous burning furnace. The sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke from the pit. Then, out of the smoke, locusts came forth on the earth and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, or anything green or any tree, but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads. They were given power not to kill them but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion, when it strikes a person. In those days, people will seek death and will not find it. They will desire to die, but death will flee from them. The locusts had the appearance of horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like golden crowns, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like women's hair and their teeth were like those of lions. They had breastplates, like breastplates of iron. The sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, or of many horses rushing to war. They have tails like those of scorpions.

ons, and stings. In their tails, they have power to harm men for five months. They have over them as [their] king the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is “Abaddon,” but in Greek, he has the name “Apollyon.” The first disaster is past. Behold, there are still two woes coming after this.

The sixth angel sounded. I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God saying to the sixth angel who had one trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!”

Then the four angels who had been prepared for that hour and day and month and year were released so that they might kill one third of mankind. The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard their number. Then, I saw the horses in the vision, and those who sat on them, having breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and they had the heads of lions. Fire, smoke, and sulfur come out of their mouths. By these three plagues, one third of mankind was killed: by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur which came out of their mouths. Indeed, the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like snakes, and these have heads with which they cause harm. The rest of mankind, those who were not killed with these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not cease worshiping demons, and

idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, idols which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk. They did not repent from their murders, or sorceries, or from their sexual immorality, or from their thefts.

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, robed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet were like pillars of fire. He had in his hand a little open scroll. He set his right foot on the sea, and his left on the land. He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars, and when he shouted, the seven thunders uttered their voices. When the seven thunders sounded, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have pronounced, and do not write them!”

Then the angel I saw standing on sea and land lifted up his right hand to the sky. He swore by him who lives unto ages of ages, him who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it. He swore that there would be no more delay. But in the days when the voice of the seventh angel is about to sound, then the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as he has announced to his servants the prophets. Again, the voice I heard from heaven spoke to me and said, “Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.”

So I went to the angel, asking him to give me the little scroll.

He answered, "Take it and eat it! It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be as sweet as honey."

I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but after eating the scroll, my stomach became bitter. I was told, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

A reed like a rod was then given to me. I was told, "Rise, and measure God's sanctuary, and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the sanctuary; do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations. They will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for one thousand two hundred sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands who stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone desires to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Whoever desires to harm them will be killed in this way. They have the power to shut up the sky, so that it may not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes out of the abyss will

attack them, overcome them, and kill them. Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, and where their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days, people from tribes, languages, and nations will look at their dead bodies, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. The people of the world rejoice over them and celebrate the event, exchanging gifts because these two prophets tormented the inhabitants of the earth.

After the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood up on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. Then I heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up into heaven in the cloud as their enemies were watching. In that day, a great earthquake occurred and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people died in the earthquake, and the rest, terrified, gave glory to the God of heaven. The second disaster is past. Behold, the third one comes quickly.

The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign unto the ages of ages!"

Then the twenty-four presbyters who sit on their thrones before God's throne fell on their faces. They worshiped God and said, "We give

thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, <and who is coming>; because you have assumed your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged. The time has come to give their reward your slaves the prophets, and also to the saints and to those who fear your Name, to the small and the great. And the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth!"

Then God's sanctuary in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Lord's covenant was seen in his sanctuary! Lightnings, sounds, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail followed.

And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun! The moon was under her feet and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. She was with child, crying out in pain, in labor to give birth. Another sign was seen in heaven. Behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven crowns. His tail drew one third of the stars of heaven and threw them down to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was caught up to God, and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God so that she

may be nourished one thousand two hundred sixty days.

A war took place in heaven: Michael and his angels made war on the dragon, and the dragon and his angels made war. But they did not prevail, and no longer was there any place found for him in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now has come the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony. They did not love their life, even to death. Therefore, rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he only has a short time."

When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he began to persecute the woman who had given birth to the male child. Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly from the face of the serpent [and escape] into the wilderness to her place and be nourished for a time,

and times, and half a time. Then from his mouth, the serpent spewed water like a river after the woman, so that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing up the river which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. The dragon became enraged with the woman and departed to make war with the rest of her seed, those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

I then stood on the seashore and saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads, blasphemous names. The beast which I saw was like a leopard; his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth was like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. One of his heads looked like it had been wounded fatally, but his fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled at the beast. They worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" A mouth speaking great things and blasphemy was given to the beast, and authority to make war for forty-two months. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to slander his Name, and his habitation, and those who dwell in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints, and to

overcome them. Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not, from the foundation of the world, been written in the book of life of the Lamb who has been killed. Let anyone who has an ear listen: If anyone is to go into captivity, he will go into captivity. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, he must be killed. Here is {a call for} the patient endurance and the faith of the saints.

Then saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his behalf and makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship before the first beast, [the one] whose fatal wound had been healed. He performs great signs, even making fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the sight of people. He deceives my own people who dwell on the earth because of the signs he was granted to perform in front of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast that was wounded by the sword and [yet] lived. It was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast so that it should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to be given marks on their right hands or on their foreheads. Hence, no one

would be able to buy or sell, unless he has that mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom: let anyone who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is six hundred sixty-six.

Then I looked, and behold, [I saw] the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with him one hundred and forty-four thousand who have his Name, and the Name of his Father written on their foreheads. I also heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of a great thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing on their harps and they sing a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the presbyters. No one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand, those who had been redeemed out of the earth. These are those who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were redeemed by Jesus from among mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. In their mouth was found no lie, for they are blameless.

Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an eternal Good News to proclaim to the inhabitants of the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He said with a loud voice, “Fear the Lord, and give him glory! For the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him

who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of waters!”

A second angel followed and said, “Babylon the great has fallen, which has made all the nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality.”

Another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a great voice, “Anyone who worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on the forehead or the hand, will also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger. They will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. The smoke of their torment goes up unto the ages of ages. Those who worship the beast and his image, and all those who receive the mark of his name have no rest day or night. Here is {a call for} the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their works follow with them.”

I looked, and behold, [I saw] a white cloud, and on the cloud someone like a Son of Man was sitting. He had on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the sanctuary. With a loud voice, he cried to the one sitting on the cloud,

"Send forth your sickle, and reap! The hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe!" He who sat on the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Another angel came out from the sanctuary which is in heaven. He too had a sharp sickle. And another angel who has power over fire came out from the altar. He called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, " Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth! For the earth's grapes are fully ripe!" So the angel swung his sickle on the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. The winepress was trodden outside of the city, and blood came out from the winepress, as high as the bridles of horses, and as far as one thousand six hundred stadia.

Then I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues, for in those last plagues God's wrath is completed. I also saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who overcame the beast, his image, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass. They held harps given to them by God and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

*Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God, the Almighty!*

*Righteous and true are your ways, you King of the nations.*

*Who would not fear you, Lord, and glorify your Name?*

*For you only are holy.*

*Certainly, all the nations welcome and worship before you,*

*For your righteous deeds have been revealed.*

After these things, I looked: the sanctuary, the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out, robed with pure, bright linen and wearing golden sashes around their chests.

One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives unto ages of ages. And the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one was able to enter into the sanctuary, until the seven plagues of the seven angels would be finished.

Then I heard a loud voice out of the sanctuary, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth!"

The first [angel] went, poured out his bowl on the earth. [At once], a foul and painful sore came upon the people who had [received] the mark of the beast and who had worshiped his image.

The second [angel] poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood, as the blood of a dead man, and in the sea, every living thing died.

The third [angel] poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of

water, and they too became blood. I heard the angel of the waters saying, “You are righteous, the one who is who were, you Holy One, because you have passed judgment. They poured out the blood of the saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve this.” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments!”

The fourth [angel] poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch people with fire. They were scorched with great heat and blasphemed the Name of God who has the power over these plagues, but they did not repent and give him glory.

The fifth [angel] poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was darkened. People gnawed their tongues in agony and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, but they did not repent of their works.

The sixth [angel] poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings that come from the sunrise. Then, I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons who perform [miraculous] signs and go forth to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them for

the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

“Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who watches and keeps his clothes in order not to walk naked and be shamefully exposed.”

And the kings were gathered to the place which is called in Hebrew, Megiddo.

The seventh [angel] poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the sanctuary of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is accomplished!” There were lightnings, sounds, and thunders. Then there was a great earthquake, such as had not taken place since there were humans on the earth, so great and so powerful. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of God, so that she would be given the cup of wine of the intensity of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains were not found. Great hailstones, about the weight of a talent, fell from the sky on people, and they blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, because this plague is extremely severe.

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here! I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters. The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her sexual

immorality." He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored animal, [which was] full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of the sexual immorality of the earth. And on her forehead a name was written, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I was filled with great amazement. The angel asked me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast you saw was, and is not; and it is about to come up out of the abyss and to go into destruction. Those who dwell on the earth and whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see that the beast was, now is not, and yet will come. This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. They are seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must remain for a little while. The beast that was, and is

not, is himself also an eighth [king]. He belongs to the seven and goes to destruction. The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings, along with the beast, for one hour. They have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and those with him are called, elect and faithful." The angel said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. The ten horns which you saw, and the beast, they will hate the prostitute and make her desolate; they will make her naked, eat her flesh, and will burn her completely with fire. For God has put in their hearts to do what he has in mind, and to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

After these things, I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. He cried with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling-place of demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, and a shelter for every unclean and detestable bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the

wrath of her sexual immorality: the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich from the abundance of her luxury.”

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you may have no participation in her sins, and so that you may not receive any of her plagues. For her sins have reached up to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Give back to her just as she returned, and repay her double as she did, and according to her works. In the cup which she mixed, mix to her double. As much as she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, give her torment and mourning. For she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow! I will never see mourning.’ Therefore, in one day, her plagues will come: death, mourning, and famine; and she will be utterly burned with fire; for the Lord God who has judged her is mighty. The kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her will weep and wail over her when they look at the smoke of her burning. They will stand far away terrified at her torment, saying: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, Babylon, the city of power! Your doom has come in one hour.’ The merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise any more; merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all expensive wood, every

vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble; and cinnamon, **incense**, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, sheep, horses, chariots, and people’s bodies and souls. The fruits which your soul lusted after have been lost to you, and all things that were splendid and sumptuous have perished from you, and you will never find them again. The merchants of these things, who were made rich by her, will stand far away terrified by her torment, weeping and mourning; saying: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, she who was dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls! In an hour such great riches are made desolate.’ Every shipmaster, and everyone who sails anywhere, and sailors, and all those who earn their living by sea, stood far away. They cried out as they looked at the smoke of her burning, saying: ‘What city was like the great city?’ They cast dust on their heads, and cried. Weeping and mourning, they exclaimed: ‘Woe, woe! The great city, in which all who had their ships in the sea were made rich by through her wealth!’ For in one hour she has been laid waste!

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, you saints, apostles, and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!” A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, “In this way, with violence, Babylon the great city

will be thrown down and never more be found. The voice of harpists, musicians, flute players and trumpeters will never more be heard in you. No craftsman, of whatever craft, will be found any more in you. The sound of a mill will never again be heard in you. The light of a lamp will never more shine in you. The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride will never again be heard in you, for your merchants were the princes of the earth, and by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. In her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all those who have been slain on the earth."

After these things, I heard something like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, exclaiming, "Alleluia! Salvation, power, and glory belong to our God, for true and righteous are his judgments! For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his servants [who had suffered] at her hand."

A second [voice] said, "Alleluia! Her smoke shall ascend unto the ages of ages." Then the twenty-four presbyters and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

A voice came forth from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great!"

And I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the roar of many waters, and like the peal of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! Let us rejoice and be extremely glad, and let us give the glory to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself!" To her it has been granted that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen: for the fine linen represents the righteous deeds of the saints.

He said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" He also told me, "These are true words of God!"

I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! And its rider is called Faithful and True. He judges and make war in righteousness. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a Name written which no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood, and His Name is "The Word of God." The heavenly hosts followed him on white horses, clothed in white, pure, fine linen. Out of his mouth comes a sharp, double-edged sword by which he should strike the

nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. He has on his garment and on his thigh a Name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the sky, “Come! Be gathered together for the supper of the great God! You may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and riders, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, small and great.” I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war against the one who sat on the horse, and against his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked the signs in his sight and by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword of him who sat on the horse, with the sword which came forth out of his mouth. And all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh.

Then I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole inhabited earth. The angel bound the dragon

for a thousand years and cast him into the abyss. It was shut and sealed over him, so that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he is to be released for a short time.

I saw thrones on which those who had received authority to pass judgment were seated. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or his image and who has not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection! Over these, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for one thousand years.

After the millennium, Satan will be released from his prison and he will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog. He will gather them together to the war, and their number is as the sand of the sea. They marched over the breadth of the land and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Fire came down from God out of heaven and they were consumed. The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the

beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night, unto ages of ages.

Then I saw a great white throne, and the one seated on it. Earth and the heaven fled away from his face: no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened: the book of life. The dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to their works. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, death and hades gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works. Then death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire! Anyone who was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people! He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes! Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, crying, or pain any more. The first things have passed away."

The one who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!" He said, "Write, for these words of God are faithful and true!" He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To whoever is thirsty, I will freely give from the spring of the water of life. To the one who overcomes, I will give these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls loaded with the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!" In the Spirit, he carried me away to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. She had the glory of God; her radiance was like a most precious stone, as if it was a jasper stone, clear as crystal. She had a great and high wall with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve angels and names were written on the gates: the names of the Twelve tribes of the children of Israel. On the east were three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them

the twelve names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who spoke with me held a golden reed as a measuring unit to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. The city was laid our as a square: its length is as great as its breadth. He measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand twelve stadia. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then the angel measured its wall: one hundred forty-four cubits, by the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. Its wall are built with jasper and the city was pure gold, like pure glass. The foundations of the city's wall were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, jacinth; and the twelfth, amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each one of the gates was made of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its sanctuary. The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light; the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates will not be shut by day (for there will be

no night there), and the nations will come, bringing their splendor and tribute. Nothing profane will enter into the city, or anyone who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The angel showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of it great street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations, and the curse will be abolished. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants offer him divine service. They will see his face, and his Name will be on their foreheads. There will be no night, and they need no lamp light, for the Lord God will illuminate them, and they will reign unto ages of ages.

The angel said to me, "These words are faithful and true! The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to show to his servants the things which must happen soon."

"Behold, I come quickly! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. He said to me, "See that you do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with

your brethren the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” He also said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the unclean still be unclean, and the righteous still do right, and the holy be holy still.”

“Behold, I come quickly! My reward is with me, to repay to each one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End! Blessed are those who observe his commandments, so that they may have access to the tree of life and may enter into the city through the gates. But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to you for the

Churches. I am the root and the offspring of David; the Bright and Morning Star!”

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let everyone who hears say, “Come!” Let everyone who is thirsty come, let anyone who wishes take the water of life freely.

I bear witness to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, may God add to him the plagues which are written in this book. If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, may God take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book. He who attests these things says, “Yes, I come quickly!”

Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.

## The Liturgy of Bright Saturday

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-22

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of

all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once,

most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not

been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:1-9

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation

which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even

though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:12-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you. He must remained in heaven until the times of restoration of all things, which God announced long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# PASCHALTIDE

# The Bright Resurrection of Christ, The Pascha of the Lord

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:23-50

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ's, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, "He put all things in subjection under his feet." But when he says, "All things are put in subjection," it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then "let us

eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived! "Evil companionships corrupt good morals." Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised?" and, "With what kind of body do they return?" You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own. Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is

sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven.

As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 3:15-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the

spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 2:22-28

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the First Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the

following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise

first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that anything be written to you. You know well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. When they are saying, "Peace and safety," then a sudden destruction will come upon them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness to allow the day to overtake you like a thief. You are all children

of light, and children of the day. We do not belong to the night, or to the darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be clear minded. Those who sleep, sleep in the night, and those who are drunk are drunk in the night. But let us, since we belong to the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, which is what you [already] do.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 2:11-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, I beg you as exiles and pilgrims [in this world] to abstain from carnal lusts which war against the soul. Live righteous lives among the nations so that if they accuse you of being evildoers, they may, by your good works which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore, for the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human institution: to the emperor as supreme [law-giver], or to governors as commissions by him to punish those who do evil and to praise to those who do good. For this is the will of God: that

by going good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men. Be free, but do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as slaves of God.

Honor everyone. Love the [family of] brethren. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure

suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten but committed himself to the one who judges righteously. In his body,

he bore in himself our sins on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; and ‘by his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer\* of your souls.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

\**episcopos, bishop*

## The Praxis

### Acts 3:1-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to

walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom

you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your

leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 5:6-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord

Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam's disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and

the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. And so, as through one sin all men were condemned; likewise through one act of right-

eousness all men were justified to life. Indeed, just as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:1-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that

they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:34-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses

of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal immortality, then what is written will come true, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

*Death, where is your sting?*

*Hades, where is your victory?*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:10-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience

and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone’s work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so

that your faith and hope might be in God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 4:1-13

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the

people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the First Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-2:3

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For this same reason, I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation to bring you to full knowledge of him. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you experience the hope of his calling and know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. May you also experience the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to his power and might which he accomplished in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places. Yes, Christ

now sits above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God put all things in subjection under his feet and granted him to be head over all things for the sake of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:8-15

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult.

Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.  
Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.  
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good?

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:13-22

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer

speak to anyone in this Name." They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!"

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## **Friday of the First Week of Paschaltide**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

**Hebrews 13:10-21**

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### **The Catholic Epistle**

**1 Peter 1:25-2:10**

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

*But the word of the Lord endures forever.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,  
has become the chief cornerstone,  
and:*

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 13:34-42

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' Therefore, he also says in another psalm, 'You will not allow your holy one to see decay.' Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his

fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear

that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,  
which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.'*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the First Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 1:12-23

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might

have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-7

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:19-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because

everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted

up their voice to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you

anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thomas Sunday

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:20-32

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin." Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should

steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new command-

ment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother [or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or

sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person. But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the

beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 17:16-34

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, as Paul was in Athens, waiting for them, his spirit was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. And so, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the [Gentile] God-fearers, and every day in the marketplace with the people that he met. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also had discussions with him. Some said, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Others suggested, “He seems to be advocating foreign deities,” because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] ‘the resurrection’.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” Now, all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “Athenians! I perceive that you are very religious in all things. For as I passed along and

observed your sacred monuments, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What therefore you revere in ignorance, this is what I announce to you! The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made with hands! Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all life, breath, and everything else. From one, he has made every nation to dwell on the entire surface of the earth (having determined the times and boundaries of their habitation). God did this so that people should seek the Lord and perhaps reach out for him and find him, although he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being!’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his

offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divinity is like gold, silver, or stone, engraved by human art and imagination. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now, he commands that all people everywhere should repent, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We want to hear you again on this matter.”

Then Paul left their company. But certain men joined with him and believed. Among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:1-4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of

David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 1:1-7

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:1-4

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them

and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:7-10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I

offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I may be blessed by the will of God to come to you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:6-10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the

truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

### The Praxis

Acts 4:5-7

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest.

After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:11-13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift with the purpose that you may be established; that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often

planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:1-6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who

says, “I know him,” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 4:8-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: “Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God

raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is ‘the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.’ There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:16-17

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For in the Gospel

God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old

commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old com-

mandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother

[or sister] is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves his brother [or sister] remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in such a person.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:13-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to step aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? Indeed, a remarkable miracle has been accomplished

through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name.” They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 1:19-21a

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the

world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting

power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:11-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you,

children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:19-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They

found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 2:8-15

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God's word is not chained! Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. This saying is sure:

*For if we died with him, we will also live with him.*

*If we endure, we will also reign with him.*

*If we deny him, he also will deny us.*

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful.*

*He cannot deny himself.*

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:21-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 9:31-35

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

Now, as Peter traveled through all those regions, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There, he found a certain man named

Aeneas, who was paralyzed and who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed!” And immediately, he arose. All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Third Sunday of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 2:19-3:10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. In Christ, you too are built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

For this reason, I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles! Surely, you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given me toward you; how by revelation, the mystery was made known to me, as I wrote before in a few words. When you read them, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to anyone as it has now been revealed to

his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit. I mean that the Gentiles are [now] fellow-heirs and fellow-members of the body, yes, fellow-partakers of God's promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News.

Of this Good News, I was made a servant, according to the gift of God's grace which was given me according to the working of his power. This grace was given to me, the very least of all saints, so that I might preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable treasures of Christ and make everyone see the dispensation of the mystery which had been hidden in God for so long, in him who created all things <through Jesus Christ>. This happened so to that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:10-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but

whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a

person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in

prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 20:1-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He

then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after

the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul

spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 2:4-7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Or do you despise the riches of God's goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath,

revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He “will pay back to everyone according to their works;” eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 John 2:15-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is

in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with

its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 4:23-27a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*Why do the nations rage,  
and the peoples plot a vain thing?  
The kings of the earth take a stand,  
and the rulers take council together,  
against the Lord, and against his Christ.'*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 2:8-13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

However, to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth but unrighteousness, there will be retribution and intense wrath, oppression and anguish. Trouble and distress will come to everyone who does evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

But glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, because there is no partiality with God. Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the

hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law

will be declared righteous.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:18-23

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Children, these are the end times! As you have heard, the Antichrist is coming and even now many anti-christs have arisen. This is how we know that it is the final hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us! If they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But [in fact] they left, so that it might be revealed that none of them belonged to us! You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written

to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father [but whoever confesses the Son also has the Father].

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 4:27-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete

boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:14-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

(Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their con-

science bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:21-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

### The Praxis

Acts 4:32-35

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and [one] soul. Not one of them claimed that anything he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. With great power, the apostles gave their witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. No one among

them lacked anything because those who owned lands or houses sold them, and they brought the proceeds what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles. Then, distribution was made to each, according to everyone's need.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:17-20

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a

guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:26-3:1

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so

that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For

this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:1-6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not

[still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!"

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:25-29

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, circumcision gains something if you are a doer of the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. And so, if an uncircumcised man keeps the ordinances of the law, will not his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision? Will not the uncircumcision which is by

nature, if it fulfills the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law? For one is not a Jew by being so outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh. Instead, someone is a Jew by being one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter. For

their praise is not from men, but from God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:2-3

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone

who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:5-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her, "Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?"

She answered, "Yes, for that price."

But Peter asked her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put

the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!"

At once, she fell down at Peter's feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 3:5-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness,” know, therefore, that those who are of faith are likewise Abraham’s children. As foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, the Scripture announced the future Good News to Abraham by saying, “In you all the nations will be

blessed.” And so, those of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham. But those who depend on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written:

*“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.”*

Now, it is obvious that no one is justified by the law before God, because “The righteous will live by faith.”

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:2-11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, we are already God’s children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not

continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born

of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the

one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:12-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon's porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around

Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, "Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fourth Sunday of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 3:1-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God! Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and

uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:13-24

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance

in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:37-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put

him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to

preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 4:4-8

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God

counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 John 3:8b-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God’s seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed:

whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should not be like Cain who was of the evil one and who killed his brother

[Abel]. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, while his brother's works were righteous.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:21-25

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing

before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One [officer] came forward and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people."

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

### Romans 3:19-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will

be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:13-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We

too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person?

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:27-29

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem

with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 2:13-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making

peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:8-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 20:1-6

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia.

As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When

Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius

of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 3:22-26

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be

received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 John 3:18-24a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should

believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:30-33

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God has exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior in order to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins. We are

his witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Hearing this, they were enraged and determined to kill them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:27-31

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the

God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:1-6a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already

in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. These people are of the world. Therefore, they speak according to [the spirit of] the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 5:34-36

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago,

Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 1:1-14

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has

revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of his glory!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:15-5:1a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they

remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has

for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his

brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:36-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, 'Do not to delay in coming to help us!' So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and

garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Fifth Sunday of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

As for other matters, brethren, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it is with you. Pray also that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, he will establish you and guard you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you accomplish and will continue to accomplish the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the endurance of Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:7-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live

through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one

another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 14:8-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother's womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" They called Barnabas "Jupiter," and Paul "Mercury," because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, "Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain

things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself without witness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that "we must go

through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and

Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 4:4-9

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.*

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 1 John 3:21-24

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one

another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 7:37-41

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they

rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:9b-12a

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be

the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them. He is the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:11-17a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 7:40b-43

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,*

*the star of your god Rephan,  
the figures which you made to worship.*

*I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## **Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

Romans 5:20-6:4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it

any longer? Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### **The Catholic Epistle**

1 John 4:15-19

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we

are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 7:44-50

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation

for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is a footstool for my  
feet.*

*What kind of house will you build  
for me?' says the Lord;  
'or what is the place of my rest?  
Did not my hand make all these  
things?'  
The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:5-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that

we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.*      *Amen.*

## **The Catholic Epistle**

### **1 John 4:18-5:1**

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he

has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## **The Praxis**

### **Acts 7:51-54**

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become

betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:17-22

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and ever-increasing wickedness, now offer your

members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:1-6

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world:

your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 8:1b-4

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In that day, a great persecution arose against the Church which was in Jerusalem. The disciples were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and greatly lamented over him. In the meantime, Saul ravaged

the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:1-13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,*

*but you prepared a body for me;*

*You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.*

*Then I said, 'Behold, I have come  
(in the scroll of the book it is written  
of me)*

*to do your will, O God.'*

First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them" (those which are offered according to the law), and then he said, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He takes away the first so that he may establish

the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can

never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:11-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that

leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 23:6b-11

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

“Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man!

But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Sixth Sunday of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:19-38a

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of

God and profaned the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified, and offended the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord", "I will repay." And also, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! But remember the early days when you had just been enlightened, how you endured a great struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were exposed to insults and oppressions; and at other times you stood with those who were treated in such a way. Indeed, you had compassion for me in my chains and joyfully accepted the seizure of your property, knowing that you have a better and enduring property in the heavens. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward. Indeed, you need endurance in order to receive the promise after having done the will of God:

*In a very little while,  
he who comes will come and will not  
wait.*

*But the righteous will live by faith.  
The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 4:6-14a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God

supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:1-20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest. He asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, [giving permission] that if he found anyone who belonged to 'the Way', whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As Saul was on

his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise,

go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now, a certain disciple named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

Ananias answered, “Behold, it is me, Lord!”

The Lord said to him, “Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for someone named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard about this man from many [friends], how much evil he has

done to your saints at Jerusalem. Here, he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those who call upon your Name!”

But the Lord said to him, “Be on your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my Name before nations and kings, and to the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for my Name’s sake.”

Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me, so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!” At once, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized, and after taking some food, he was strengthened. After staying for several days with the disciples who were at Damascus, Saul immediately went in the synagogues to proclaim that Christ is the Son of God.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:2-5

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak

through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh;

so that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the

flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:9-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoev-

er has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 9:23-31

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the

disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved

about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:9-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteous-

ness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:9-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God

has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 5:27-29

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your

teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men!

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 7:1-8

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a person for as long as that person lives? Hence, the woman who has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. Therefore, if she is joined to another man while her husband lives, she would be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law and she is no adulteress even though she is now joined to another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ in order to be joined to another, to him

who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit to God. While we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were through the law worked in our members to produce fruit unto death. But now, we have been released from the {obligations of the} law, having died to what was binding us, so that we serve in ‘newness of the spirit’, and not in ‘oldness of the letter’.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? May it never be! However, I would not have recognizedsin, except through the law. Indeed, I would not have known coveting, unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, finding an opportunity in the

commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting! For apart from the

law, sin is dead.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:13-18

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in

prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 19:6b-10

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

And they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak

evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and                          in every church. Amen.*

# The Feast of the Ascension

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 3:13-16

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Those who have served well earn for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I write to you these things, hoping to come to you shortly. If I am delayed, I want you to know how the people should behave in the house of

God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation

of the truth. Without a doubt, great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was revealed in the flesh,  
vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
preached among the nations,  
believed on in the world,  
and received up in glory.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:15b-22

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but

[made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with

angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and hold firm to the traditions as I delivered them to you. But I desire you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered dishonors his head. But every woman praying or prophesying with her head unveiled dishonors her head, and it is as if she were shaved. Indeed, if a woman does not wear a head covering, she should be shaved; and if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, then let her be covered. Certainly, a man should not have his head covered, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. Man is not from woman, but woman from man; for man was not created

for the woman, but woman for the man. For this cause, a woman should have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Nevertheless, in the Lord, a woman is not independent from the man or a man independent from the woman. For as woman came from man, so a man also comes [to life] through a woman; but all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it appropriate that a woman pray to God unveiled? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, because her hair is given to her as a covering. But if anyone wishes to dispute these things, we have no other custom, and neither do God's Churches.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:14-21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us,

no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is

protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 22:6-10

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.’

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There, you will be told about what you are directed to do.’

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:8-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” Now, what does “he ascended” mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the

knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceptions and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 5:5-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your

worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the world experience the same sufferings.

But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 24:10-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, "Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the

dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, 'I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!'"

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Seventh Sunday of Paschaltide

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:57-16:8

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Now, concerning the collection for the saints, do as I instructed the Churches of Galatia. On the first day of the week, each one of you should put aside and reserve according to God's blessing, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, I will send whoever you approve with

letters to carry your gracious gift to Jerusalem. If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will accompany me. But I will come to you when I have passed through Macedonia, since I have to go through Macedonia. I may also stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my journey. For I do not wish to see you just in passing, but I hope to stay with you for a while, if the Lord permits. But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:2c-12

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are

protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even

though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the

glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 20:1-16

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and

five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, “Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!”

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and

headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we arrived in Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Monday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 8:12-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit

of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 2 John 1:1-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all

those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May

grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the com-

mandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Anti-christ. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 14:19-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra,

Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:22-27

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Also, the Spirit helps

our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

2 John 8-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 14:20b-23

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the

faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him

up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” No, in all

these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor

height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 3 John 1-8

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have

borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:4-9

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, "It is

necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!"

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to

them, "Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by

giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Thursday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 14:5-11

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds,

how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Catholic Epistle

#### 3 John 10-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked

words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and

throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 15:7-12

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why

do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Friday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:12-17

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore,

the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another

tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one

who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### Jude 22-25

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of

his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 15:13-18

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.  
I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen.  
I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,  
That the rest of men may seek after  
the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by  
my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these  
things.*

*All his works are known to God  
from eternity.’*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## Saturday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:31b-14:4

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in

part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:12-17

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 1:15-26

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: "Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called 'Akeldama,' that is, 'The field of blood.'

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*Let his habitation be made desolate,  
And let no one dwell in it;*

and,

*Let another take his office of overseer.'*

Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John and to the day that he was taken up from us, of these [men], one must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

So, they put forward two [candidates]: Joseph called Barsabbas who

was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Feast of Pentecost

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:1-31a

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were Gentiles, you were enticed and led away to those mute idols. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by God's Spirit can say, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. Now, there are various kinds of gifts, but it is the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of works, but it is the same God who works all things in all. But to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. To one, the word of wisdom is given through the Spirit, and to another, the word of knowledge, [both] according to the same Spirit. To another faith [is given] by the same Spirit and to yet another gifts of healings, [both] by the same Spirit. To another it is given to work miracles and to another prophecy. Another receives the discerning of spirits, another different kinds of tongues and another [yet] the interpretation of tongues. But it is the one and same Spirit who works all of these, distributing to each one individually as he intends.

Just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body (though many,) form one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, both Jews and Greeks, slaves or free; and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not the hand, I am not part of the body," it would still be part of the body. If the ear would say, "Because I am not the eye, I am not part of the body," it would still be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? Or if the whole body were hearing, where would the smelling be? But now, God has set the members of the body, each one of them, just as he desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now, they are many members, but [still] one body. The eye cannot tell the hand, "I have no need of you," or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." In fact, the members of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable! The members of the body which we think less honorable, we clothe with greater honor while our less respectable members are treated with greater

respect, although our more presentable parts have no such need. But God put the body together, giving more abundant honor to the inferior part, so that there should be no division in the body. Instead, the members should have the same care for one another. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, and when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. God has appointed some in the Church as

follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 2:20-3:1a

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the

anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 2:1-21

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, when the day of Pentecost came, they were all with one accord [gathered] in the same place. Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Divided tongues that seemed like fire appeared and one [tongue] rested on each of them. Then, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. At that time {of year}, devout Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd formed and people were bewildered because everyone heard the disciples speaking in one's own language. They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Behold, are not all these who speak Galileans? How is it that we hear everyone [speak] in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages [concerning] the deeds of power of God!" They were all

amazed and perplexed, saying one to another, "What does this mean?" Others, mockingly, said, "They are filled with new wine!"

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: "Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

*It will be in the last days, says God,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all  
flesh.*

*Your sons and your daughters will  
prophesy.*

*Your young men will see visions.*

*Your old men will dream dreams.*

*Yes, and on my servants and on my  
handmaidens in those days,*

*I will pour out my Spirit, and they  
will prophesy!*

*I will show wonders in the sky  
above,*

*and signs on the earth beneath;  
blood, and fire, and billows of  
smoke.*

*The sun will be turned into dark-  
ness,*

*and the moon into blood,*

*before the great and glorious day of  
the Lord comes.*

*And it will be that whoever will call  
on the Name of the Lord will be*

*saved.'*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and  
in every church. Amen.*

## **The Office of Kneeling (or Worship) on the Eve of Monday after Pentecost**

### **The Pauline Epistle of the First Kneeling**

1 Corinthians 12:28-13:12

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned

but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become fullgrown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see

face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even

as I have been fully known.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Pauline Epistle of the Second Kneeling

1 Corinthians 13:13-14:17

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church. Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is

being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.*

*Amen.*

## **The Pauline Epistle of the Third Kneeling**

1 Corinthians 14:18-40

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproofed by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a

[saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

As is done in all the Churches of the saints, women should remain silent in the Churches, for it has not been permitted for them to speak as they are to be under authority, as the law also says. If they desire to learn about something, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is not fitting that a woman should speak in the Church. Do you think that it was from you that the word of God went out? Or did it come to you alone? If

any man thinks himself to be a prophet or someone spiritual, let him recognize the things which I write to you: these are the commandment of the Lord. But the ignorant is truly

ignorant! Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, but let all things be done decently and in order.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

# **NEEDS**

# Baptism

## The Prayer of the Naming on the Seventh Day After Birth

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:5-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten you*

and again:

*I will be a Father to him,*

*and he will be my Son?*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,*

*and his servants a flame of fire.*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.*

*Amen.*

## The Churching of the Mother after the Birth of a Boy

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:5-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## **The Churching of the Mother after the Birth of a Girl**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

Hebrews 1:5-12

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As for other cases, I (not the Lord) say this: if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and if she is content to live with him, let him not leave her. [Likewise,] the woman who has an unbelieving husband who is content to live with her should not leave her

husband. This is because the unbelieving husband is sanctified in his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but in fact, they are holy.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## **The Hallowing of the Waters of Holy Baptism**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

Titus 2:11-3:7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to Titus. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Truly, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. It has taught us that we should deny what is ungodly and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and

in a godly way in this present world; waiting for the blessed hope: the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to redeem us

from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Teach these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you!

Remind the people to be in submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, not speaking evil of anyone and not contentious. They should also be gentle, showing great humility toward everyone. Indeed, we used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating

one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, (not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy), he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Yes, God richly poured out this Spirit on us, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:5-14

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever

does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us!

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 8:26-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.”

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.”

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, “Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?”

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a place] some water, and the eunuch said, “Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?”

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Prayer Eight Days After the Baptism

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same

spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## **Marriage**

### **Betrothal**

#### **The Pauline Epistle**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-10**

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as

the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## **Crowning**

#### **The Pauline Epistle**

**Ephesians 5:22-6:3**

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Wives, be subject to your own husbands as [you are] to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the

Church, being himself the savior of the body. As the Church is subject to Christ, wives should likewise be

subject to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her in order to sanctify her, having purified her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the Church to himself in glory, without any spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and flawless. In the same way, a husband should love his wife as his [own] body. He who loves his own wife loves himself! No man ever hates his own body but feeds it and cares for it, as the Lord also does for the Church. Yes, we are members of his body, his very flesh and bones!

*For this cause a man will leave his father and mother, and will be joined to his wife. The two will become one flesh.*

This is a great mystery: I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Now concerning you: each one of you must also love his own wife even as his own self; and the wife must respect her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with abpromise: "that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth."*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Pauline Epistle for a Non-Festive Weekday

Ephesians 4:1-7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were

called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle for a Non-Festive Weekday

1 Peter 3:5-9

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as jointheirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis for a Non-Fasting Weekday

Acts 4:32-35

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and [one] soul. Not one of them claimed that anything he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. With great power, the apostles gave their witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. No one among

them lacked anything because those who owned lands or houses sold them, and they brought the proceeds what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles. Then, distribution was made to each, according to everyone's need.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## A Second Marriage

### The Pauline Epistle

Hewbrews 13:1-5

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Keep on loving each other as brethren. Do not forget to be hospi-

table to strangers, for in doing so, some have welcomed angels without

knowing it! Remember those who are in chains, as chained with them, and also those who are ill-treated, as if you too were suffering in the body. Marriage must be held in honor among all and the [marriage] bed [kept] undefiled: but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Be free from the love of money and be satisfied with what you have. As God has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you."

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## An Alternate Pauline Epistle

### 1 Corinthians 7:7-9

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, I wish that everyone would be like me. However each person has his own gift from God, one of this kind, and another of that kind. But I say this to those who are unmarried and to widows as well: it is

good for them if they remain as I am. But if they do not have self-control, let them marry. Indeed, it is better to marry than to burn.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Removal of the Crown

### The Pauline Epistle

### 1 Timothy 4:9-15

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance. For this purpose, we work hard and experience rejection, because we have placed our trust in the living God who is the Savior of all, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in

purity. Until I come, devote yourself to public reading, encouragement and teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the council of presbyters. Be attentive in these things. Give yourself to them completely, so that your progress may be manifest to all.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*



# Consecrations and Ordinations

## Home Blessings

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:14-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the

sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God’s children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Alternate Home Blessings

(Composed by Heg. Fr. Athanasius Iskander)

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is certain that we groan in this [tent], longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwell-

ing; so that being clothed we will not be found naked. We who are in this tent are truly groaning as we are burdened; but it is not that we desire to be unclothed; rather, we desire to be clothed, so that what is mortal may

be swallowed up by life. Now, the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also gave us the pledge of the Spirit.

Therefore, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight. I dare say that we are courageous and that we would rather be

absent from the body and at home with the Lord. And so, we make this our aim: that whether at home or absent, we would be well-pleasing to him. For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what was done in the body; good or evil.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Monks

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 6:10-20

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil's tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be

ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## **Reception of a New Presbyter**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Presbyters who rule well should be accounted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in preaching and teaching. As the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Do not receive an accusation against a presbyter, except at the word of two or three witnesses. Reprove those who have sinned in the sight of all, so that the others may also be in fear. I command you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels: observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay your hands hastily on anyone and do not be a participant in someone else’s sins. Keep yourself pure. Do not drink only water but use a little wine for

your stomach and because of your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious long before they come to judgment while others are discovered only later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Those who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of all honor, so that God’s Name and our doctrine may not be brought into disrepute. Slaves whose masters are believers should not despise them because they are brethren. Rather, they should serve them because those who have a share in the benefit [of their work] are believing and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## **Patriarchs**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for assistance in time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed for their sake in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for [their] sins. The high priest can deal gently with those who

are ignorant and going astray since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for the sins for the people as well as for himself. Moreover, nobody assumes this honor by himself but one is called by God, just as Aaron was. Likewise, Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was God who said to him:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.*

As he says also in another place,

*You are a priest forever,*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.*  
*Amen.*

## The Cornerstone

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:1-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that

budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the

people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal

ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Church

### Revelation 21:1-27

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with people! He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes! Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, crying, or pain any more. The first things have passed away.”

The one who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new!” He said, “Write, for these words of God are faithful and true!” He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning

and the End. To whoever is thirsty, I will freely give from the spring of the water of life. To the one who overcomes, I will give these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls loaded with the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!” In the Spirit, he carried me away to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. She had the glory of God; her radiance was like a most

precious stone, as if it was a jasper stone, clear as crystal. She had a great and high wall with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve angels and names were written on the gates: the names of the Twelve tribes of the children of Israel. On the east were three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who spoke with me held a golden reed as a measuring unit to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. The city was laid our as a square: its length is as great as its breadth. He measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand twelve stadia. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then the angel measured its wall: one hundred forty-four cubits, by the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. Its wall are built with jasper and the city was pure gold, like pure glass. The foundations of the city's wall were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the

third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, jacinth; and the twelfth, amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each one of the gates was made of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its sanctuary. The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light; the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates will not be shut by day (for there will be no night there), and the nations will come, bringing their splendor and tribute. Nothing profane will enter into the city, or anyone who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:26-8:13

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He

does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he

did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, "Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain." But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,*

*when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,  
and with the house of Judah;  
not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers,  
in the day when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of the land of Egypt;  
for they did not continue in my covenant,  
and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel.*

*After those days, says the Lord;  
I will put my laws into their mind,  
I will also write them on their heart.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.*

*They will not teach every man his neighbor,*

*and every man his brother, saying:  
Know the Lord,'*

*for all will know me,  
from their least to their greatest.*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness;*

*I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.*

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:14-26

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

What good is it, my brethren, if someone claims to have faith but has no works? Can faith save such a person? If a brother or sister is in rags and lacking daily food, and one of you tells them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" and not give them what the body needs, what good is that? Likewise faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works!" Show me your faith without works, and by my works, I will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one! You do well! The demons also believe, and they shudder. Fool! Will you not recognize that apart from works, faith is dead? Was not our father Abraham justified by works, by offering up his

son Isaac on the altar? You can see that [his] faith was working with his works, and that by works, faith was perfected. Thus, the Scripture which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness" was fulfilled, and he was called the friend of God. You see, then, that one is justified by works, and not only by faith. In the same way, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works, by receiving the messengers and sending them out another way? For just as the body is dead apart from the spirit, so is faith dead apart from works.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 7:44-56

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they

brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God,

and who prayed to find a habitation for the God of

Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is a footstool for my feet. What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord; ‘or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not perse-

cute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!”

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He exclaimed, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Altar

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Hebrews 13:10-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the

camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Baptistry

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:1-7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were

called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But grace has been granted to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Oil of Gladness

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 9:11-10:24

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. It was not through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood that he entered into the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (sprinkling those who have been defiled) could sanctify

to restore the purity of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to offer divine service to the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the sins that were under the first covenant, so that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where

there is a last will and testament, there must also be the death of the one who made it. A will comes into effect after death; it is never in force while the one who made it is still alive. That is why even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”

Moreover, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way, with the blood. According to the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and there is no remission [of sins] if there is no shedding of blood. Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things should be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves [had to be purified] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true [holy places], but into heaven itself in order to appear in the presence of God for us. Yet, this did not take place so that he would offer himself often, as the [Levitical] high priest does when he enters into the holy place year by year, not with their own blood. Otherwise, he would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world.

But now, at the end of the ages, he has been revealed once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed for humans to die once, and after this come the judgment. It is the same with Christ: having been offered once to bear the sins of many, he will appear a second time, apart from sin-offering, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,*

*but you prepared a body for me;*

*You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come  
(in the scroll of the book it is written  
of me)*

*to do your will, O God.’*

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them” (those which are offered according to the

law), and then he said, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He takes away the first so that he may establish the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet. By one offering, he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying:

*This is the covenant that I will make with them:*

*‘After those days,’ says the Lord,  
I will put my laws on their heart,  
I will also write them on their mind;’*

then he says,

*I will remember their sins and iniquities no more.*

Now, where there is remission of these sins, there is no more offering for sin.

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 4:7-5:21

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God’s love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning

sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the

world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes

that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We

know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 13:13-49

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, Paul and his company set sail from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Continuing from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia. There, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down [to listen]. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent them a message, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak!”

So Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you [Gentiles] who fear God, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper when they stayed as aliens in

the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. For a period of about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, God gave them their land as an inheritance, and this took about four hundred fifty years. After this, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin [who ruled] for forty years. After removing him, he raised up David to be their king, even bearing witness to him, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ From this

man's seed, God has brought salvation to Israel, according to his promise. This was before the coming of Jesus, when John first preached the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.' Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm:

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your father.'*

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' Therefore, he also says in another psalm, 'You will not allow your holy one to see decay.' Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

*Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!*

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.'*

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now, when the congregation was dismissed, many Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas who spoke to them and encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God. The next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that God’s word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord’s word was spread throughout the entire region.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The First Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:26-9:10

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, not man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and

sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this high priest should also have something to offer. If the Lord were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, because there are priests who [still] offer gifts according to the law. They offer divine service to a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to build the tabernacle. For God said, “Behold, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” But now, Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, given as law on better promises.

If that first covenant had been with fault, there would have been no place to look for a second one. But finding fault with them, God said:

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel,  
and with the house of Judah;  
not according to the covenant that I  
made with their fathers,  
in the day when I took them by the  
hand  
to lead them out of the land of  
Egypt;  
for they did not continue in my cove-  
nant,  
and I disregarded them, says the  
Lord.*

*For this is the covenant that I will  
make with the house of Israel.*

After those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, I will also write them on their heart. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying: 'Know the Lord,' for all will know me, from their least to their greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness; I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.

By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old. And what is becoming obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.

Even the first tabernacle and covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. A

tabernacle was set up; in the first part which is called the Holy Place were the lampstand, the table, and the show bread. Beyond the second veil was found the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies. It had a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant all covered with gold. The Ark contained a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant. Above it, cherubim of glory overshadowed the mercy seat, but now we cannot speak about these things in detail. According to this arrangement, priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, accomplishing the rites of offering divine service. Into the second tabernacle, only the high priest enters, once in the year and with blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people. The Holy Spirit is indicating that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed, [at least] while the first tabernacle was still standing. It is a figure of the present age, where the gifts and sacrifices that are offered are incapable, as far as conscience is concerned, to make the one who offers divine service perfect. The reason is that they are only carnal ordinances (with meats, drinks and various washings), imposed until a time of reformation.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:8-4:11

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,  
and see good days,  
should keep his tongue from evil,  
and his lips from speaking deceit.*

*Let him turn away from evil, and do  
good.*

*Let him seek peace, and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,*

*and his ears open to their prayer;  
but the face of the Lord is against  
those who do evil.*

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in

Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-

believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things,

be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 18:24-19:20

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Now, a certain Jew named Apollos who was an Alexandrian by race and an eloquent man arrived in Ephesus, and he was powerful with the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he had only experienced the baptism of John. Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

When Apollos had determined to cross over into Achaia, the brethren

encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived there, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

It happened that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had passed through the upper country and arrived in Ephesus. There, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy

Spirit!" Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

After hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

God worked remarkable miracles by the hands of Paul, so [much] that even handkerchiefs or aprons that

had touched him were taken to the sick, and the evil spirits were expelled.

But some of the itinerant Jews who were exorcists took it on themselves to invoke the Name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits. They said, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." There were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them and overpowered them. He gave them such a beating that they escaped from that house naked and wounded. This became known to all who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Second Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-2:4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

In the past, God spoke to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. At the end of these days, he has spoken to us in his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he [had] made the ages. His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself made purification for our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much better than the angels as the Name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did

*God ever say:*

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten youf  
and again:*

*I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*"Let all the angels of God worship him."*

*Of the angels, Godk says:*

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.a  
But of the Son he says:*

*Your throne, O Godb, is unto ages  
of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and  
hated iniquity;  
therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your  
companions.*

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the  
foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your  
hands.*

*They will perish, but you continue.  
They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies the foot-  
stool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we weretaught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience

received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also

bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 Peter 1:10-2:10

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, "You

shall be holy, for I am holy." If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone's work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

Having purified your souls by obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart, fervently! You have been born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, through the word of God which lives and remains forever. For:

*All flesh is like grass,*

*and all of man's glory like the flower  
in the grass.*

*The grass withers, and its flower  
falls;*

*but the word of the Lord endures for-  
ever.*

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

*Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner-  
stone, chosen, and precious:*

*Whoever believes in him will not be  
disappointed.*

For you who believe, this brings honor, but for those who are disobedient:

*The stone which the builders rejected,  
has become the chief cornerstone,  
and:*

*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of  
offense.*

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are  
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its  
desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide  
forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

### Acts 2:22-3:10

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you

yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death,

because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

*I saw the Lord always before my face,*

*For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.*

*Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;*

*because you will not abandon my soul to hades,*

*neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.*

*You made known to me the ways of life.*

*You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

Brethren, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us even to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that from the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, [declaring] that his soul would not be left in hades and that his flesh would not see decay. God has raised this Jesus [back to life], and we are all witnesses of this fact. Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not

ascend into the heavens, but as he himself declared:

*The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'*

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with assurance that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now, when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to

everyone's need. Day by day, they continued [to meet] with one accord in the temple, and broke bread at home, partaking of their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They praised God and were held in esteem by all the people. Every day, the Lord added to the Church those who were being saved.

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called 'Beautiful') to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look

at us!" The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## The Third Liturgy of Leavening the Myron

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 2:11-3:7

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Let a woman learn in quietness, with all submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be silent; because Adam was first formed, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, fell into disobedience. But women will be saved through childbearing, as they

remain in faith, love and sanctifying self-restraint.

This is a sure word: if a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. The overseer must be irreproachable, husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, modest, hospitable and a good teacher. He must not be a drinker; or

someone violent or greedy for money. He should be gentle, not irritable or envious. He should be someone who rules his own house well, keeping his [own] children in subjection with all reverence. (Indeed, if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how can he take care of the Church of God?) He should not be a new

convert, for fear that being puffed up with pride he may fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have good testimony from those who are outside in order to avoid falling into [public] blame and the snare of the devil.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

### 1 John 5:5-13

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three who bear witness <in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth>: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever

does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 8:26-39

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.”

So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.”

Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.*

*As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth.*

*In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.*

*Who will declare His generation?*

*For his life is taken from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, “Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?”

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. As they went on the way, they arrived to [a place] with some water, and the eunuch said, “Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?”

Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!’ He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

## Myron

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 1:5-2:4

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*You are my Son!*

*Today I have I begotten you*

and again:

*I will be a Father to him,  
and he will be my Son?*

Also, when he brings the firstborn into the world, God says:

*'Let all the angels of God worship him.'*

Of the angels, God says:

*Who makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants a flame of fire.*

But of the Son he says:

*Your throne, O God, is unto ages of ages.*

*The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom.*

*You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;*

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*

The Son as eternal creator

And:

*You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth.*

*The heavens are the works of your hands*

*They will perish, but you continue.*

*They all will grow old as a garment,  
As a mantle, you will roll them up,  
and they will be changed;  
but you are the same.*

*Your years will not fail.*

But to which of the angels did he ever say,

*Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?*

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we should pay greater attention to the things that we were taught, for fear that we might drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved reliable and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation! It was first announced by the Lord himself, and is confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also bore witness with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:20-28

*The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you

these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Praxis

Acts 10:34-46a

*A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.*

Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly, I perceive that God does not show favoritism; but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. God sent his word to the children of Israel, and the Good News of peace was preached by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. You know what happened

since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses

of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets

bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. The believers who had come with Peter and who were of the circumcision were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. Indeed, they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.*

# The Anointing of the Sick

## The First Prayer

### The Catholic Epistle

James 5:10-20

*The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher James. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises. Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church: they should pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and

the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another in order to be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.*

## The Second Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 15:1-7

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, we who are strong should bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not {just} please ourselves. Let each one of us please our neighbor for what is good, to be edifying to him. Even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, "The insults of those who insulted you fell on me." For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures' encourage-

ment we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Third Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:28-13:8

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have

gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and

have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take

offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Fourth Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:14-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the

sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. As it is, the creation waits with eager expectation for the revelation of God's children. Indeed, creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation will also be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Fifth Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 2:16-20

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Yet knowing that no one is justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, even though we desired to be justified in Christ, we were found to be sinners, does that mean that Christ is a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I build up again

those things which I [once] destroyed, I show that I am breaking the law. For I, through the law, died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. I now live this life in the flesh, but I live [it] by faith in the Son of God who loved me and who gave himself up for me.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## The Sixth Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace

of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the

Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## The Seventh Prayer

### The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 6:10-18

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil's tactics. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of

truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Burial

### Men

#### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-23

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, and by which also you are saved, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephas then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God

which was with me. It does not matter whether it is I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

Now, if Christ is preached and we preach that he has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised! If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain. Yes, we are found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified concerning God that he raised up Christ (but if God did not raise him up, then the dead are not raised). For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins. Moreover, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If it is only in this life that we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pathetic of all human beings!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! He did become the first fruits of those who are asleep.

For since death came through [one] man, the resurrection of the dead also came through [one] man. As in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive.

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ's, at his coming.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Women

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:39-50

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul."

The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Women During Childbirth

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 5:1-16

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering works perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam's disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Boys

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the

Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Girls

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we

will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal immortality, then what is written will come true, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

*Death, where is your sting?  
Hades, where is your victory?*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be

steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Deacons

### The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:23-38

*A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ's, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, "He put all things in subjection under his feet." But when he says, "All things are put in subjection," it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at

every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived! "Evil companionships corrupt good morals." Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised?" and, "With what kind of body do they return?" You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Presbyters

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:10-5:1

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be

multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

## Bishops

### The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 13:7-21

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Remember your leaders, men who proclaimed the word of God to you. Considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus

Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. It is good that the inner person should be

strengthened by grace, not by food which is of no profit to those who are so preoccupied by it!

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Monks and Heiromonks

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Romans 8:2-11

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the

likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh; so that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh

set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit. The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. This is because the mind of the flesh is hostile towards God; certainly, it is not subject to God's law, and indeed it cannot be. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But

someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## 2 Corinthians 4:10-5:1

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

And we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be

multiplied to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart, but even if outwardly we are decaying, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Indeed, or our light affliction (which is temporary) is producing for us an ever-increasing standing in eternal glory! This is because we do not look at visible things but at invisible things, and the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We know that if our earthly tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## Virgins

### The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:11-17

*A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

But since we know the fear of the Lord, let us try to persuade others. What we are is revealed to God, and I hope that we are also revealed to your consciences. For we are not trying to obtain your approval once again, but we say this to give you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you may have something to answer to those who boast in appearances - not in the heart [of things]. If we are unreasonable, it is for God, and if we are reasonable, it is for you. Indeed, the love of Christ overwhelms us, because we consider this: that one

died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live to themselves but to him who died and rose again for them. Therefore, we do not think of anyone according to the [old] flesh any more. Even though we used to think of Christ according to the flesh, we no longer think of him this way. Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new!

*The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.*

### The Lifting of the Mat on the Third Day in the Home of the Deceased, Also the Fortieth Day

### The Pauline Epistle

Romans 5:6-17

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his

own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were

reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam's disobedience (and Adam is a type of

him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

## One Month, Six Months, and One Year

### The Pauline Epistle

#### Colossians 1:12-22

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions,

principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through

death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*

**EACH DAY**

## **Early Morning: The First Hour**

### **The Pauline Epistle**

**Ephesians 4:1-5**

*A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is why, I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the

bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.  
Amen.*