

The Readings for Great Lent  
of the  
Coptic Rite

The Readings for Great Lent of the Coptic Rite

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GREAT LENT

# **The Fast and Feast of Nineveh**

## **Monday of the Fast of Nineveh**

### **The Evening or Vespers Gospel**

Psalm 94:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

O come, let us rejoice in the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to God our Saviour!  
Let us come before His face with confession,  
and shout for joy to Him with psalms.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no,

but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" *Glory be to God forever.*

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Jonas 1:1-2:1

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

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he

went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came

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

The captain came to him and said, "Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe so we do not perish." And each one said to his shipmate, "Come! Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this calamity is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then they said to him, "Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you did?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, "Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me."

And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said, "Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about." So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 102:1, 8

*A Psalm of David.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless His holy Name.  
The Lord is compassionate and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 7:6-12

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

Do not give what is holy to the dogs and do not throw your pearls before pigs, for fear that they might trample them under their feet, and then turn [against you] and tear you to pieces.

Ask, and it will be given you! Seek, and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened for you! For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Who is there among you, who, if his

son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a snake? If you then who are evil [still] know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Therefore, whatever you desire other people to do for you, you shall also do for them! This is the law and the prophets. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 everincreasing 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 129:3, 4, 6a

*A Psalm of David.*

If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who would stand?—  
For there is atonement with You.  
My soul hopes in the Lord  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 12:35-45

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

The good man brings out good things out of his good treasure, and the evil man brings out evil things out of his evil treasure. I tell you that for every idle word that people speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

But Jesus answered, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation except for the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and will

condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. And behold, someone greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the south will stand up in the judgment with this generation and she will condemn it because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. And behold, someone greater than Solomon is here!

After an unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he wanders through dry places seeking rest and does not find it. He then says, ‘I will return into my house from which I came out,’ and when he has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order! Then, he goes [around] and brings with himself seven other spirits more evil than he, and they enter in and dwell there. And so, the last state of that person becomes worse than the first.

This is how it will be with this evil generation.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Tuesday of the Fast of Nineveh**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Jonas 2:2-11

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

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

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

And He heard my voice;

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

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

And rivers encompassed me;

All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.

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

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

Water is poured over me to my soul;

The lowest depth encircled me;

My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains.

I descended into the earth,

The bars of which are everlasting barriers;

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

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

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

Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy.

But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise,

I will sacrifice to You.

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

‘To You, the Lord of Deliverance.’”

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 102:14b, 15a, 9, 10

*A Psalm of David.*

Remember[, O Lord] that we are dust!  
As for man, his days are like grass.  
He will not be angry to the end,  
nor will He be wrathful forever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our transgressions.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:6-9

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

He then said this parable. "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to look for fruit on it, but found nothing. He said to the vine dresser, 'Behold, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree for three years, and found none. Cut it

down! Why does it waste the soil?' The gardener answered, 'Lord, let it be for this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 84:3, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;

You have covered all their sins. *(Pause)*

You put a stop to all Your wrath;

You turned away the heat of Your anger.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:29-36

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

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This is an evil generation; it asks for a sign. No sign will be given to this generation except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah became a sign to the

Ninevites, the Son of Man will also be a sign to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up in the judgment along with the people of this generation, and she will condemn them: for she came from the ends of

the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here! The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and they will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, someone greater than Jonah is here.

No one who has lit a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket! Instead, it is placed on a stand so that those

who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye! Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is full of darkness. And so, see whether the light that is in you is not darkness. If your whole body is full of light, having no dark part, it will be completely full of light, as when the lamp with its bright shining gives you light.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Wednesday of the Fast of Nineveh**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Jonas 3:1-4:11

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

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

And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he

arose from his throne, removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, “Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water.” So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying, “Who knows if God shall have a change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about



the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

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

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

gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. And when the sun rose, God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” Then God said to Jonah, “Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?” And he said, “I am exceedingly grieved, even unto death.” And the Lord said, “You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know either their right hand or their left—and many livestock?”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 102:13, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him,  
as far as the East is from the West,  
He has removed our iniquity from us.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 11:25-30

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

At that time, Jesus exclaimed, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the learned and intelligent, and revealed them to infants! Yes, Father, this was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except

the Son and the one to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Indeed, my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Glory be to God forever.*

**The 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 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 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 31:1, 5cd

*A Psalm of David.*

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

I said, "I will confess to the Lord against myself, declaring my sin,"  
and You forgave the ungodliness of my sin.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 15:32-16:4

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

Jesus called his disciples and said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me for three days now and they have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they might faint on the way."

The disciples said to him, "But where should we get so many loaves in a deserted place as to satisfy so great a multitude?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

They replied, "Seven, and a few small fish."

Jesus then told the crowd to sit down on the ground and took the seven loaves and the fish. He gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples distributed [the food] to the multitudes. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left

over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. Then, Jesus sent the people away, got into the boat, and came to the borders of Magdala.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and put Jesus to the test by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. But he answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'The weather will be pleasant because the sky is red.' In the morning, you say, 'The weather will be bad today because the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times! An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to this generation, except the sign of the prophet Jonah." He left them and moved on. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Feast of Nineveh

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 29:11, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;  
the Lord became my helper.  
You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
You have torn off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 8:10-21

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

Immediately, he got into the boat with his disciples and arrived into the region of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came out and began to question him, seeking from him a sign from heaven, and putting him to the test. Jesus sighed deeply in his spirit, and said, "Why is this generation seeking a sign? Amen, I tell you: no sign will be given to this generation!"

He left them, and again entered into the boat and departed to the other side. But the disciples forgot to take bread and had only one loaf in the boat with them. Jesus warned them in these words, "Be watchful, beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod."

They reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread!"

Jesus, perceiving this, said to them, "Why do you reason that it is because you have no bread [that I have said this]? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Is your heart still hardened? Having eyes, do you not see? Having ears, do not you hear? Do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather up?"

They told him, "Twelve!"

"And after the seven loaves had fed four thousand people, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather up?"

They replied, "Seven!"

Jesus asked them, "Do you still not understand?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

Romans 10:4-18

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

For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, "The one who does them will live by them." But the righteousness which is of faith speaks this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart, one believes, resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made, resulting in salvation. As the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Indeed, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the

same Lord is Lord of all, and he is bountiful to all who call on him. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the Good News of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

But they did not all listen to the Good News. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" And so, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, did they not hear? Yes, most certainly:

*Their sound went out into all the  
earth,*

*Their words to the ends of the world.*

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

## The Catholic Epistle

1 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 117:5, 18

*A Psalm of David.*

I called on the Lord in affliction,  
and He heard me and brought me into a broad place.  
The Lord chastened me with chastening,  
but He did not give me up to death.

*Alleluia.*

John 2:12-25

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

After this, he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they did not stay there [more than] a few days.

Now, the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers sitting [at their booths]. So, he made a whip of cords and drove [them] all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; he also poured out the changers' money and overthrew their tables. To those who sold the doves, he said, "Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father's house a marketplace!" Then, his disciples remembered that it was written:

*"Zeal for your house will consume me."*

Therefore, the Jews declared, "What sign do you show us, since you do these things?"

Jesus answered and responded to them, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up!"

The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this sanctuary, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Now, when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his Name, observing the signs which he was performing. But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew everyone, and because he did not need a witness about human nature, for he himself

knew what was in man. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Saturday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking**

### **The Evening or Vespers Gospel**

Psalm 16:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

Let my judgment come forth from Your presence;

let my eyes behold uprightness.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 17:3-6

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

Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: 'I repent!' you must forgive him."

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

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

### **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 118:49, 52

*A Psalm of David.*

Remember Your word to Your servant,

by which You have given me hope.

I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord,

and I was comforted.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 13:33-37

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

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time is.

It is like a man who journeyed to another country. He leaves his house, gives authority to his servants and to each one his task. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you do not

know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning. But fear that coming suddenly, he might find you sleeping. What I tell you, I [also] tell everyone: keep watch!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

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 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. 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 94:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

O come, let us rejoice in the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to God our Saviour!  
Let us come before His face with confession,  
and shout for joy to Him with psalms.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these

Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those

eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those

who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" *Glory be to God forever.*

# The Sunday of Pre-Lent Leave-Taking

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 45:11

*A Psalm of David.*

“Be still and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

*Alleluia.*

Mark 11:22-26

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

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God! For amen, I tell you that if anyone tells this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ without doubt in the heart but believing that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says. Therefore, I tell you, whatever things you pray for and ask for, believe that you have

received them, and you shall have them. Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive; so that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your transgressions.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 99:2, 3c

*A Psalm of David.*

Serve the Lord with gladness;  
enter before Him with rejoicing.  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 17:3-10

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



Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

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

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

But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or shepherd-

ing, that will say when that servant returns from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at the table.’ Instead, will you not tell him, ‘Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me while I eat and drink. Afterwards, you may eat and drink?’ Does the master thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not! So you also, when you have done all those things which you are commanded [to do], say, ‘We are unworthy servants, we have [only] done our duty!’” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Pauline Epistle**

### **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 Abra-

ham’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 thousands 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 2:11, 10

*A Psalm of David.*

Serve the Lord with fear,  
and rejoice in Him with trembling.  
And now, O kings, understand;  
be instructed, all you rulers of the earth.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 6:1-18

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

Be careful not to make your charitable giving before other people, with the intention to be seen by them. If you do so, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Therefore, when you do merciful deeds, do not sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets in order to receive glory from men. Amen, I tell you: they have [already] received their reward. But when you do merciful deeds, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your merciful deeds may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you openly.

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Amen, I tell you: they have [already] received their reward! But you, when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. When you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard on account of their many words. Therefore, do not be like them, for your Father knows

what things you need even before you ask him. Pray like this:

*'Our Father who are in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name.*

*Your Kingdom come,*

*Your will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven.*

*Give us this day our bread of the  
morrow\**

*and forgive us our debts as we also  
forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.*

*For yours is the Kingdom, the power,  
and the glory,*

*now and unto ages of ages. Amen.'*

For if you forgive people their offences, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their offences, neither will your Father forgive your offences.

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites with their gloomy faces. For they disfigure their faces so that people may see that they are fasting. Amen, I tell you: they have received their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that people may not see that you are fasting. Only your Father who is in secret will see, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Monday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 16:15

*A Psalm of David.*

Their stomachs are filled with Your hidden treasures,  
they [have satisfied themselves with swine,  
and have left] the surplus to their children.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:1-13

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

One day, when Jesus had finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.”

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

*‘Our Father in heaven,*

*May your Name be kept holy!*

*May your Kingdom come!*

*May your will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us day by day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins,*

*for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us;*

*and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend. You go to this friend’s house at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of

bread! A friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him. Then, the one inside answers and says, ‘Do not bother me! The door is now shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything!’ I tell you, although he will not get up and give food to him because they are friends, yet because of the requester’s bold persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. Whoever seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if a son asks for a fish, the father

will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if a son asks for an egg, the father will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to

your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" *Glory be to God forever.*

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Exodus 2:23-3:5

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 1:2-18

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

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

Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in

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

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

moons, and Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, and fasting and holy day. Your new moons and feasts My soul hates. You have become a dissatisfaction to Me; I will not forgive your sins. When you stretch forth your hands to Me, I will turn My eyes from you. Although you make many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 6:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, rebuke me[, but] not in Your anger;  
and chasten me[, but] not in Your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak,  
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 12:24-34

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

However, when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man can only cast out demons by {the authority of} Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!”

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus told them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? If it is by Beelzebul that I cast out demons, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter into the house of the strong man, and plunder his goods, unless he first bind the strong man?

Then he will [be able to] plunder his house.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters! Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, neither in this age, nor in the one which is to come.

Make the tree good and its fruit [will be] good, or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt, for the tree is known by its fruit. You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? Indeed, words flow out of what fills the heart.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## **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 judg-

ment 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 21:27

*A Psalm of David.*

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord will praise Him;  
their hearts will live forever and ever.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 9:33-50

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

Jesus arrived in Capernaum, and when he was in the house, he asked his disciples, “What were you arguing among yourselves on the way?”

But they remained silent because on the way, they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

He sat down, called the Twelve and told them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and the servant of all.” He took a little child and set him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives such a little child in my Name, receives me; and whoever receives me, does not receive me, but the one who sent me.”

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in your Name; and we forbade him, because he does not follow us!”

But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him, for no one who does a mighty work in my Name will be able to quickly speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is on our side. Amen, I tell you that whoever will give you a cup of water to drink in my Name, because you belong to Christ, will not lose his reward. But if someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around the neck”.

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than have your two hands and go into Gehenna, the unquenchable fire ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having your two feet to be

cast into Gehenna, the fire that will never be quenched, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye, rather than with two eyes be cast into the Gehenna of

fire, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Indeed, everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Tuesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Isaias 1:19-2:3a

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

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: “Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. I

will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.” For her captives shall be saved with judgment and with mercy. The lawless and sinners shall be destroyed together. Those who forsake the Lord shall come to an end. For they shall be ashamed of the idols they desired and the gardens they longed for. For they shall be as a terebinth tree that has lost its leaves; like a garden with no water. Their strength shall be as broken fiber and their works as sparks of fire. The lawless and the

sinner will burn together, and no one shall quench them.

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

Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. Many

Gentiles shall travel and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it."\* For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

*\*Kitchener ends here.*

### Zecharias 8:7-13

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

Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness.'

"Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. For before those days, men's wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock will not even exist, and because of

affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,' says the Lord Almighty. 'Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands.'

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 22:1, 3ab

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I will lack nothing.

He restores my soul;

He guides me on the paths of righteousness

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 9:10-15

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

It so happened that as Jesus was sitting in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

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

the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Then, John's disciples came to Jesus, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"

Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then, they will fast. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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! 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 5:34-42

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

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee arose during the days of the census, and he led some people to follow him. He also perished, and all those who obeyed him were scattered abroad. Now I tell

you: stay away from these men and leave them alone. If this plan or work is of human origin, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would find yourselves fighting against God!"

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

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

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



## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 24:16, 17a

*A Psalm of David.*

Look upon me and have mercy on me,  
for I am an only son, and I am poor.  
The afflictions of my heart are multiplied.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:41-50

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

Peter said to him, “Lord, are you telling this parable [only] to us, or to everyone?”

The Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and wise steward whom his master will set over his household to give [his people] their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his lord will find doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will set this servant over all that he has. But what if the servant says in his heart, ‘My lord is late in returning’ and begins to beat his fellow-servants, both men and women, and also to eat, drink and become drunk? Then the lord of that servant will come in a day when he is not expecting him, and in an hour

that he does not know. He will cut the servant in two and assign him a place with the unbelievers. Such a servant, who knew his lord’s will and yet did not prepare or do what the master wanted will be beaten with many stripes. But a servant who did not know and did things worthy of punishment will be beaten with few stripes. From everyone to whom much is given, much will be required; and from whoever was entrusted with much, much will be asked.

I have come to bring fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! But now I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 2:3-11

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Joel 2:12-27

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

Now says the Lord your God, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compas-

sionate. He is longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an

offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?"

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

God's Blessing upon His People

But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. And the Lord answered His people and said, "Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, and I will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell

will rise up, because he has done powerful works."

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 24:6, 7a

*A Psalm of David.*

Remember Your compassions and Your mercies, O Lord,  
for they are from all eternity.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth, and my acts of ignorance.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:24-34

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

*But woe to you who are rich!  
For you have received your consolation.*

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

*Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.*

*Woe to you when all men speak well  
of you,  
for their fathers did the same thing to  
the false prophets.*

But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other

[cheek]. If someone takes away your cloak, do not refuse your coat also. Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

As you would like others to do to you, do the same to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them! If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same! If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive [back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 downstairs! Accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

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

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 24:20, 16a

*A Psalm of David.*

O keep my soul and deliver me;  
do not let me be ashamed, for I have hoped in You.  
Look upon me and have mercy on me.\*

*Alleluia.*

*\*Lacking in Kitchener*

Luke 6:35-38

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

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind [even] to the ungrateful and evil.

*Therefore, be merciful,  
even as your Father is also merciful.  
Do not judge,  
and you will not be judged.  
Do not condemn,*

*and you will not be condemned.*

*Set free,*

*and you will be set free.*

Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it will be measured back to you.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## Thursday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 2:11b-19

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

And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all

who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; and upon every cedar tree of Leba-

non, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every mountain and lofty hill, and upon every high tower and fortified wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that

day. But they shall hide all the things made by hands. They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord's presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Zecharias 8:18-23

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

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.' Thus says the Lord Almighty: 'Yet many people will have come and those inhabiting many cities; and the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, "Let us go to beseech the Lord and to seek

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 23:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell in it.  
He has set it firmly on the seas,  
and prepared it on the rivers.

*Alleluia.*



## Luke 8:22-25

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

On one of those days, he entered into a boat with his disciples and said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." And so, they launched out. But as they sailed, Jesus fell asleep. A wind storm came down on the lake, and they were taking on dangerous amounts of water. His disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, "Master, master,

we are dying!" He awoke, rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and it was calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" In fear and amazement, they said to one another, "Who is this, then, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him? *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 "pomos"

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 117:14, 18

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and He has become my salvation.  
The Lord chastened me with chastening,  
but He did not give me up to death.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 4:21-29

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

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

He also told them, "Pay attention to what you hear! With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to those who hear. For whoever has will receive even more, but to the

one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is as if a man would scatter seed on the ground, and then go to sleep. Night and day, whether he sleeps or rises, the seed springs up and grows, even if he does not know how. For the earth bears fruit: first the blade comes, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the fruit is ripe, at once the man pulls out his sickle, because the harvest has come."

*Glory be to God forever.*

## Friday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 6:3-7:26

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 3:1-14a

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

For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Judah and from Jerusalem the strong man and

the strong woman; the strength of bread and the strength of water; the mighty man and the man of war; the

judge, the prophet, the diviner, and the elder; the captain of fifty, the wonderful counselor, the skillful artisan, and the prudent disciple. "I will give children to be their princes, and mockers shall rule over them. The people will collapse, every one on another and every one on his neighbor. The child will be arrogant toward the elder and vulgar toward the honorable." When a man takes hold of his brother or his father's servant, saying, "You have clothing; you be our ruler and let my food be under your roof." In that day, he will protest, saying, "I will not be your ruler, for in my house there is neither food nor clothing. I will not be the ruler of this people." For Jerusalem is ruined and Judah is fallen, because their tongues are lawless and they are disobedient to the Lord. Now their

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 29:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

I will exalt You, O Lord,  
for You upheld me,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O Lord, my God, I cried to You,  
and You have healed me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 5:12-16

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



It happened, while he was in one of the cities, that there was a man full of leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face, and begged him, saying, "Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean."

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I want to! Be made clean."

Immediately the leprosy left him. Jesus commanded him to tell no one,

"But go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing according to what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Still, the report concerning him spread much more, and great multitudes came together to hear and to be healed by him of their infirmities. But he withdrew himself into the desert and prayed. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 12:6, 7

*A Psalm of David.*

But I hope in Your mercy;  
my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord, my benefactor,  
and I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:1-10

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

One day, when Jesus had finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.”

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

*‘Our Father in heaven,  
May your Name be kept holy!  
May your Kingdom come!  
May your will be done on Earth, as  
it is in heaven.  
Give us day by day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves also forgive everyone  
who is indebted to us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’*

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend. You go to this friend’s house at midnight and tell

him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread! A friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him. Then, the one inside answers and says, ‘Do not bother me! The door is now shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything!’ I tell you, although he will not get up and give food to him because they are friends, yet because of the requester’s bold persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. Whoever seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Saturday of The Preparation Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:57, 58

*A Psalm of David.*

You are my portion, O Lord;

I said that I would keep Your law.

I implored Your grace with all my heart;

have mercy on me according to Your saying.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 5:25-37

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

Find an agreement with your adversary as soon as possible, even as you are on your way to court, fearing that perhaps the prosecutor will deliver you to the judge, the judge to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Amen, I tell you: you will not get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

You have heard that it was said to the ancients, 'You shall not commit adultery;' but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you! Indeed, it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw

it away from you! It is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.

It was also said, 'Whoever shall divorce his wife, let him give her a writing of divorce,' but I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, (except for the cause of sexual immorality), makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a woman put away in this manner commits adultery.

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not swear falsely; you must fulfill your vows to the Lord.' But I tell you: do not swear at all! Neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not even swear by your head because you

cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' be 'No.' Whatever goes

beyond these is from the evil one.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 individually 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 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**

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 every-

where 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. Immediately, 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 5:2, 3ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Give ear to my words, O Lord,  
hear my cry.

Attend to the voice of my supplication,  
my King and my God.

*Alleluia.*



## Matthew 5:38-48

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

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you: do not resist one who is evil, but to whoever strikes you on your right cheek, present the other cheek as well. If anyone sues you to take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him for two. Give to whoever asks you, and do not deny whoever desires to borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: love your enemies, bless those who curse

you, do good to those who hate you! Pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust. And so, if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore, be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. *Glory be to God forever.*

# The First Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 16:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

Let my judgment come forth from Your presence;

let my eyes behold uprightness.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 6:34-7:12

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

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Do not judge in order not to be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in someone else's eye, but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye? How can you tell someone, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye;' and behold, there is a beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

Do not give what is holy to the dogs and do not throw your pearls

before pigs, for fear that they might trample them under their feet, and then turn [against you] and tear you to pieces.

Ask, and it will be given you! Seek, and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened for you! For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a snake? If you then who are evil [still] know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Therefore, whatever you desire other people to do for you, you shall also do for them! This is the law and the prophets. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 17:2, 3ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my support, my refuge, and my deliverer;

My God is my helper, I will hope in Him.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 7:22-29

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

Many will tell me in that Day, 'Lord, Lord, did not we prophesy in your Name, cast out demons in your Name and do many deeds of power in your Name?' Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you! Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'

Everyone therefore who hears my words and does them, I will compare with a wise person who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, beating hard on that house. Yet, it did not collapse, because it was

founded on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, beating hard on that house; and it collapsed - and great was its fall."

It happened, when Jesus had finished saying these things, that the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them with authority, not like the scribes. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 24:1, 2ab, 4, 5a

*A Psalm of David.*

I lift up my soul to You, O Lord.  
O my God, I trust in You;  
do not let me be put to shame,  
Make Your ways known to me, O Lord,  
and teach me Your paths.  
Guide me in Your truth and teach me.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 6:19-33

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

Do not store up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. Instead, store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The lamp of the body is the eye! If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the

light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious for your life: wondering what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? See the birds of the sky: they do not sow, or reap, or

gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more value than they?

Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? Why then are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil or spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these! But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown

into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying: 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'What will we wear?' It is the Gentiles who seek after all these things, but your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Monday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 47:11c, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Your right hand is full of righteousness.  
Let Mount Zion be glad,  
and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,  
because of Your judgments, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:27-38

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

But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other [cheek]. If someone takes away your cloak, do

not refuse your coat also. Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

As you would like others to do to you, do the same to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is

that to you? Even sinners love those who love them! If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same! If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive [back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind [even] to the ungrateful and evil.

*Therefore, be merciful,*

*even as your Father is also merciful.  
Do not judge,  
and you will not be judged.  
Do not condemn,  
and you will not be condemned.  
Set free,  
and you will be set free.*

Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it will be measured back to you.” *Glory be to God forever.*

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Exodus 3:6-14

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

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

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

affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

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



Then God said to Moses, “I AM the Existing One.” He also said, “Thus you shall say to the children of

Israel: ‘The Existing One sent me to you.’ ”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 4:2-5:7a

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

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

“Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 39:12

*A Psalm of David.*

Do not remove then, O Lord,  
Your compassion from me;  
may Your mercy and Your truth  
always support me.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 9:25-29

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

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"

The spirit cried out, convulsed greatly and came out of the boy. He became as dead, so much that most

of the people said, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up; and the boy arose.

When Jesus entered into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not we cast it out?" He told them, "This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

Josef, 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 28:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God,  
bring to the Lord young rams;  
bring to the Lord honour and glory.  
Bring to the Lord glory due to His Name.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 18:1-8

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

Jesus also told them a parable [illustrating] that they must always pray and not give up, saying: "In a certain city, there was a judge who did not fear God and did not care [about anyone]. A widow lived in that city, and she often came to him, saying: 'Defend me from my adversary!' For a time, he would not [do anything], but after a while, he said to himself, 'Although I neither fear God nor care for anyone, yet because this widow is

bothering me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual visits.'"

The Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge has to say! Will not God grant justice to his elect who are crying out to him day and night, although he exercises patience regarding them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly! And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## Tuesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Job 19:1-27

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

Then Job answered and said:                      And take me down with words?  
"How long will you weary my soul

Only know how the Lord has  
dealt with me thus.

You speak against me, and while  
shaming me,

You press hard on me.

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

When I speak words which I  
should not have spoken,

My words go astray and are unsea-  
sonable.

Alas! You exalt yourselves against  
me

And attack me with disgrace.

Know therefore that the Lord has  
troubled me

And raised His stronghold against  
me.

Behold, I laugh at disgrace and I  
will not speak.

Nor will I cry out, for judgment is  
nowhere to be found.

I am walled in round about and  
cannot cross over,

For He has set darkness before my  
face.

He stripped me of my glory

And took the crown from my  
head.

He has torn me apart on every  
side, and I am gone.

He has uprooted my hope like a  
tree.

He handled me vehemently in  
wrath

And has counted me like an ene-  
my.

His raiders came against me with  
one accord.

They encircled my paths and lay in  
wait.

“My brothers stood far from me  
And recognized strangers rather  
than me.

So my friends became unmerciful.

My relatives acted as though they  
did not know me,

And my close friends have forgot-  
ten me.

As for my neighbors and the  
maidservants of my house,

I was a stranger before them.

I called my servant, but he gave no  
answer,

Though I begged him with my  
mouth.

I also entreated my wife,

And summoned the children of  
my concubines and flattered them.

But they rejected me forever.

When I arise, they speak against  
me.

Those who know me detest me,

And those whom I truly love  
turned against me.

The muscles of my body have  
decayed under my skin,

And my bones are held in my  
teeth.

“Have mercy on me, have mercy  
on me, O friends,

For the hand of the Lord has  
touched me.

Why do you persecute me as the  
Lord does,

And are not satisfied because of  
my flesh?

“For who may commit my words  
to writing,

To put them in a book forever,

With an iron pen and lead,

Or to engrave them in rocks?

For I know He is everlasting,

He who is about to set me free on  
the earth

And to raise up my skin that en-  
dures these things;

For these have been accomplished  
for me by the Lord;

Which I myself am conscious of,

And my eyes have beheld, and not  
those of another.

All has been accomplished for me  
in my bosom.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 5:7-16

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 40:5, 14

*A Psalm of David.*

I said, "Lord, have mercy on me;  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."  
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Amen! Amen!

*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:22-31

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore, I tell you not to be anxious about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing! Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not have a warehouse or barn and [yet] God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Which one of you by worrying can add a single day to his life? If you are not able to accomplish even the smallest things, why then are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not

toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 40:2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;  
the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 10:17-27

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

As Jesus was setting out on his journey, someone ran to him, knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do in order to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except one: God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not give false testimony,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’”

The man said, “Teacher, I have observed all these things since my youth!”

Jesus looked at him and felt love for him. He then said, “You lack one thing. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor. You will have a treasure in heaven; then come, follow me, taking up the cross.”

However, the man was distressed when he heard this. He went away

sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it is for the wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

They were extremely astonished and said to him, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and answered, “With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God!” *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 2:11-20

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

Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren of the sons of Israel. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you hitting your neighbor?" He replied, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses was alarmed and said, "Surely this thing is known." Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face

of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 5:17-25

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

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

Woe to those who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope and lawlessness as with the strap of a cow's yoke, who say, "Let Him

speedily hasten what He will do that we may see it, and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know it!" Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet

and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like

dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Malachi 1:6-3:6\*

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

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

“But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your

hands; shall I accept these from you?” says the Lord Almighty. “For this reason, even among you the doors will be shut, and you will not burn an offering on My altar. I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord Almighty, “nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My name has been glorified among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering, for My name shall be great among the Gentiles,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you profane it in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled; and the food placed upon it is contemptible.’ And you said, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And I have blown these away,” says the Lord Almighty. “And you bring prey, the lame, and the sick, and when you bring an offering,

should I accept these from your hands?" says the Lord Almighty. "But cursed be the man who is able, who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—for I am a great King," says the Lord Almighty, "and My name is glorious among the nations.

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

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

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

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

And you do these things which I hate. You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and moaning because of troubles, yet still thinking it is worthy to look upon your sacrifice or take it as acceptable from your hands. And you say, "Why?" Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you have forsaken; yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. But did He not make another, having a remnant of His Spirit? Yet you ask, "What else does God seek but offspring?" But take heed to your spirit, and do not

forsake the wife of your youth. "But if you hate her and send her away," says the Lord God of Israel, "ungodliness will obscure your thinking," says the Lord Almighty. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not forsake her." You weary the Lord with your words, yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming," says the Lord Almighty. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner's fire and as soap in one's wash. He will sit as a refiner and a

purifier of silver and gold. He will purify the sons of Levi and pour them out as purified gold and silver, and they will bring an offering to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

"And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, those who exploit wage-earners, those who oppress widows and afflict orphans, those who pervert the justice due foreigners, and those who do not fear Me," says the Lord Almighty. "For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob, have not abstained [from the sins of your fathers.]

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 17:18c, 19

*A Psalm of David.*

For they are too strong for me.

They overtook me in the day of my affliction,  
but the Lord became my support.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 5:17-24

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

Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill! Amen, I tell you: until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments and teach others to do so shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. Indeed, I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

You have heard that it was said of old, 'You shall not murder;' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be in danger of the judgment.' But I tell you, whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Whoever calls his brother 'Raca!' shall be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever shall say, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.

If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there, before the altar. First, go your way and be reconciled to your brother, and then offer your gift. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 in-  
to judgment.*

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if



through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), "Let us do evil, that good may come?" Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

*There is no one righteous; no, not one.*

*There is no one who understands.*

*There is no one who seeks after God.*

*They have all turned aside.*

*They have together become worthless.  
There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.*

*Their throat is an open tomb,  
With their tongues they have used deceit.*

*The poison of vipers is under their lips;*

*Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

*Their feet are swift to shed blood.*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

*The way of peace, they have not known.*

*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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

### Psalm 17:2, 3ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my support, my refuge, and my deliverer;

My God is my helper, I will hope in Him.

*Alleluia.*

## Matthew 15:32-38

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

Jesus called his disciples and said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me for three days now and they have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they might faint on the way."

The disciples said to him, "But where should we get so many loaves in a deserted place as to satisfy so great a multitude?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

They replied, "Seven, and a few small fish."

Jesus then told the crowd to sit down on the ground and took the seven loaves and the fish. He gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples distributed [the food] to the multitudes. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Thursday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### Deuteronomy 5:15-22

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

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

'Honor your father and mother in the manner the Lord your God commanded you, that it may be well with you, and you may be a long time

in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

'You shall not murder.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not covet your neighbor's house, neither his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or his

cattle, or anything belonging to your neighbor.’

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was

darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 6:1-12

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Joshua 2:1-6:26\*

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

After this, Joshua the son of Nun sent out two young men from Acacia Grove to spy out the land, saying,

“Go and see the land and Jericho.” So the two young men went and entered Jericho; and they went into the house

of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. This was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come to spy on the land." So the king of Jericho sent and spoke to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who came into your house last night; for they are here to spy on the land."

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

So the men searched for them along the road to the Jordan, to the fords, and the gate was closed. Then it came to pass, when the men who pursued them went after them and before the spies went to sleep, that she went to them on the roof and said, "I know that the Lord gave you the land, for fear of you has fallen upon us. For we heard that the Lord God dried up the Red Sea before you when you came out of the land of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and to Og, whom you utterly destroyed. So when we heard it, we were amazed in our heart, and there was no longer any spirit in any of us because of your presence, for your God is in heaven

above and on earth below. Now therefore, swear to me by the Lord God that as I showed you mercy, you shall also be merciful to me in my father's house, and capture alive all my house: my father and mother, and my brothers, and everything they have, and deliver my soul from death."

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

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

according to your word.” So she sent them away.

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

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and departed from Acacia Grove; and he came to the Jordan and lodged there before crossing over. After three days, it came to pass that the scribes went through the camp and commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and Levites who carry it, then you shall depart from your places; and you shall go after it; but there shall be a distance between you and it. You shall stand as much as two thousand cubits from it, and do not come near it, that you may understand the way you are to go; for you have not gone this way before.” Joshua then said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua also said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and go

before the people.” So the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and went before the people.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.”

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark

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

Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, "Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together with you. Put them in your encampment where you will set up camp tonight.' " So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. He said to them, "Draw near in front of me in the Lord's presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, 'What are these stones to

you?' then you will declare to your son, saying, 'The Jordan River dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over'; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever."

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

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

of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses.

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

Now the people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel camped at Gilgal in the region eastward from Jericho. Then Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones he took from the Jordan, saying, "When your children ask you, 'What are these stones?' then tell your children that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we crossed over; that all the nations of the land might know that the power of the Lord is mighty; and that you might worship the Lord your God in every age."

Then it came to pass, when the kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan and the kings of the Phoenicians near the sea heard

that the Lord God had dried up the Jordan River before the children of Israel when they crossed over, their minds fainted, they were panic-stricken, and there was no more sense left in them because of the presence of the children of Israel.

At about this time, the Lord said to Joshua, "Make stone knives for yourself from a sharp rock, and sit down and circumcise the sons of Israel." So Joshua made sharp stone knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at the place called the Hill of Foreskins. In this manner, Joshua completely purified the sons of Israel, as many as were born at any time along the way and as many as were uncircumcised after they came out of Egypt. Joshua circumcised all these. For Israel lived in the Madbarite desert for forty-two years; therefore, most of their fighting men who came out of Egypt and who disobeyed the commandments of God were uncircumcised. Concerning these, He also determined that they would not see the land which the Lord swore to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. But in their place, He raised up their sons, whom Joshua circumcised because they were born during the journey and thus were uncircumcised. So when they were circumcised, they rested there and stayed in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, "Today I have removed the disgrace of Egypt from



you.” Thus he called the name of that place Gilgal.

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

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

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

themselves; and all the people will enter, each rushing throughout the entire area of the city.”

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

Now Joshua gave a command to the people, saying, “Do not shout, nor let anyone hear your voice, until the day I myself tell you to shout, and then shout.” So when the ark of the covenant of God went around the city, it immediately returned into the camp and lodged there. Then on the second day, Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Seven priests carried seven trumpets and went on before the Lord. The armed men followed after with the rest of the multitude behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then the priests sounded the trumpets, and all the rest of the multitude encircled the city from close by, then again went back to the camp. They did this for six days.

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

Joshua put the city under a curse with the edge of the sword, and whatever was in it: from man to woman, from young man to old man, and from calf to donkey. Then Joshua said to the two young men who acted as spies, "Go into the house of the

woman, and bring her out from there, and whatever she has." So the two young men who had spied out the city went into the house of the woman and brought out Rahab the harlot, her father and mother, and her brothers and kindred, and all she possessed. They set her outside the camp of Israel, and the city, with everyone in it, was set on fire; but the silver, the gold, the bronze, and the iron they brought into the treasury of the Lord.

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 27:9

*A Psalm of David.*

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;  
shepherd them and raise them up forever.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 11:20-30

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

He then began to rebuke the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes! But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you! You, Capernaum, who [thought that you] were exalted to heaven, you will go down to hades! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this [very] day. But I tell you: on the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom, than for you.”

At that time, Jesus exclaimed, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the learned and intelligent, and revealed them to infants! Yes, Father, this was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and the one to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Indeed, my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## The 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 47:11c, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 19:16-30

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

Behold, a man came to him and asked, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do in order to have eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

The man said to him, "Which ones?"

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder.' 'You shall not commit

adultery.' 'You shall not steal.' 'You shall not bear false witness.' 'Honor your father and mother;' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The young man then said to him, "All these things I have observed from my youth! What do I still lack?"

Jesus replied, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me!" But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad

because he was a person with great possessions. Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen I say to you, it will be hard for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Indeed, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

When the disciples heard this, they were extremely astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"

Looking at them, Jesus answered, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!"

Then Peter said, "Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that you who have followed me, at the regeneration, when the Son of Man will sit on the throne of his glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the Twelve tribes of Israel. Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or lands for my Name's sake will receive a hundred times [more] and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## Friday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 8:1-9:4

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

"Every commandment I command you today you must be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and inherit the land the Lord swore to your fathers. Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might make you know that man

shall not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow

through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper. Thus you shall eat and be full and bless the Lord your God for the good land He gave you.

“Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days— then do not say in your heart, ‘My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.’

Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*



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

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

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

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

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

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

bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!”

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

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

24Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord Sabaoth, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you reproached today. 25Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you. And this

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

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

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon. Then the men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. He put his armor in his tent.

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 7:1-14

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 11:1-20

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

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

“He who speaks much should also listen in turn,

Or does the fluent speaker think himself to be righteous?

Blessed is the short-lived offspring of a woman.

Do not be wordy in your speech,

For there is no one to reply to you.

Do not say, ‘I am pure in my works

And blameless before Him.’

But how does the Lord speak to you?

He will open His lips against you.

Then He will declare to you the power of wisdom,

For it shall be double in your case.

At that time you will know a worthy recompense

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

Will you find the traces of the Lord?

Have you reached the outer extremities

Of what the Almighty has made?

Heaven is high, and what will you do?

And what do you know,

For there are even deeper things in Hades?

Do you know those dimensions

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

If He should overthrow everything,

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

For He knows the works of the lawless;

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

But man vainly swims in words,

And a mortal born of a woman is equal to a donkey in the desert.

If you have made your heart pure

And stretch out your hands toward Him,

If something lawless is done by your hands,

Put it far away from you;

And do not let any wrongdoing lodge in your dwelling.

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

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

Then you will forget this hardship

Like a wave that has passed away;

And you will not be terrified.

Your prayer will be like the morning star.

At midday, life will rise to you.

You will be confident because you have hope;

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

You will also be at rest,  
And there will be no one to fight  
against you.  
Many will change their mind about  
you and supplicate you.

But salvation will forsake them,  
for their hope will be lost,  
And the eyes of the ungodly will  
melt away.”  
*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 114:7, 8a first half of b

*A Psalm of David.*

Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the Lord has shown you kindness,  
for He has delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 15:39-16:12

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

Then, Jesus sent the people away,  
got into the boat, and came to the  
borders of Magdala.

The Pharisees and Sadducees  
came and put Jesus to the test by  
asking him to show them a sign from  
heaven. But he answered them,  
“When it is evening, you say, ‘The  
weather will be pleasant because the  
sky is red.’ In the morning, you say,  
‘The weather will be bad today  
because the sky is red and threaten-  
ing.’ Hypocrites! You know how to  
discern the appearance of the sky, but  
you cannot discern the signs of the  
times! An evil and adulterous genera-  
tion seeks after a sign, but no sign will

be given to this generation, except the  
sign of the prophet Jonah.”

He left them and moved on. The  
disciples came to the other side and  
had forgotten to take bread. Jesus  
then said to them, “Take heed and  
beware of the yeast of the Pharisees  
and Sadducees!”

At this, they reasoned among  
themselves, saying, “We brought no  
bread!”

Perceiving this, Jesus said, “Why  
do you reason among yourselves, you  
of little faith, ‘because you have  
brought no bread?’ Do you still not  
understand or remember the five  
loaves that fed the five thousand and  
how many baskets you gathered up?

Or do you not remember the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many baskets you took up? How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking to you about {physical} bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!"

Then, they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 28:10b, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

The Lord sits enthroned as King forever.

The Lord will give strength to His people;

the Lord will bless His people with peace.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 6:39-49

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

He spoke a parable to them. “Can the blind guide the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is

not above his teacher, but after being fully trained, everyone will be like their teacher. Why do you see the



speck of chaff that is in your brother's eye but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck of chaff that is in your eye,' when you do not see the beam that is in your own eye? You hypocrites! First, remove the beam from your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly in order to remove the speck of chaff that is in your brother's eye. For there is no good tree that brings forth rotten fruit, or any rotten tree that produces good fruit. Indeed, each tree is known by its own fruit! People do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick up grapes from a bramble bush. Out of the good treasure of his heart, a good person brings out what is good, but out of the evil treasure of his heart,

one who is evil brings out what is evil. For out of the overflowing of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what the person is like who comes to me, hears my words and does them. He is like a man building a house who dug and went deep, and laid a foundation on the rock. When a flood arose, the water rushed against that house but could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock. But the one who hears and does not practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The stream rushed against it, and at once it fell down; and the ruin of that house was great."

*Glory be to God forever.*

## **Saturday of First (Second) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 24:7bc, 8a, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

Remember me in Your mercy,  
because of Your goodness, O Lord.  
The Lord is good and upright;  
For Your Name's sake, O Lord,  
[You will] pardon my sin, for it is great.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 9:43-50

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

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than have your two hands and go into Gehenna, the unquenchable fire ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having your two feet to be cast into Gehenna, the fire that will never be quenched, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your eye causes you to

stumble, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye, rather than with two eyes be cast into the Gehenna of fire, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Indeed, everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 117:19, 20

*A Psalm of David.*

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

Matthew 7:13-21

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

Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. How narrow is the gate, and how pressing is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it.

Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing. Inwardly they are ravenous wolves! By their fruits you will recognize them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Likewise,

every good tree produces good fruit, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, and neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them. It is not everyone who tells me, 'Lord, Lord' who will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. *Glory be to God forever.*

# The Second Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 50:3,

*A Psalm of David.*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
in Your great mercy;  
and according to the abundance of Your compassion,  
[You will] blot out my transgression.  
Turn Your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 1:12-15

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

At once, the Spirit drove him out into the desert. He was there, in the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals and the angels were serving him.

Now, after John had been arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled! The Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the Good News." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 56:2

*A Psalm of David.*

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,  
for my soul trusts in You;  
and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings  
until iniquity passes away.

*Alleluia.*

## Luke 4:1-13

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

Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. For forty days, he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days and afterward, when they were completed, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread!"

Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

Leading him up on a high place, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to him, "I will give you all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I want. If you therefore will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered him, "Get behind me Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and to him only shall you offer divine service.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from here, for it is written,

*'He will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you;'*

and,

*'On their hands they will bear you up, lest perhaps you dash your foot against a stone.'*

In reply, Jesus said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until another time. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 26:8c, 9acd

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, will I seek after Your face.

Do not turn Your face from me.

Be my helper, do not utterly cast me away;

Do not forsake me, O God, my Saviour.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was then led by the Spirit [to go] into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

But Jesus answered, "It is written:

*'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'*"

Then the devil took him to the holy city. He placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will put his angels in charge of you' and [also],

*'On their hands they will bear you up, And so, that you do not dash your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus replied, "But it is also written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God to the test.'"

The devil took him to an extremely high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all of these things if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and

to him only shall you offer divine service.””

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Monday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 40:1

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;  
the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:1-13

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

Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. For forty days, he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days and afterward, when they were completed, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread!”

Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

Leading him up on a high place, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to him, “I will give you all this authority and their

glory, for it has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I want. If you therefore will worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered him, “Get behind me Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and to him only shall you offer divine service.’”

The devil led him to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from here, for it is written,

*‘He will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you;’*  
and,

*'On their hands they will bear you up, lest perhaps you dash your foot against a stone.'*

In reply, Jesus said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until another time. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

### Proverbs 1:20-35

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 8:13-9:6

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

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

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

you will be grieved, and speak badly of your ruler and the idols. Then they shall look up to heaven above, and on the earth below, and behold, tribulation, distress, and darkness. There will be severe despair and darkness, so dark one cannot see. And the one who is in despair shall be perplexed, but only for a time.

Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine. The multitude of the people, whom You brought down in Your joy, they shall also rejoice in Your presence, as those who rejoice in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoils. For the yoke lying upon them and the rod upon their neck is taken away, for the Lord broke the rod of the exactors as in the day of Midian. For every robe and garment gathered by deceit, they shall repay with money, and they shall be willing to do this, even though they were burned with fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is

given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be

upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 31:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

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

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not take into account.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 19:11-28

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

As the people heard these things, he went on to tell [them] a parable because he was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God would be revealed immediately. He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. So he called ten of his slaves and gave them ten mina coins, and told them, 'Trade [with these] until I come.' But his subjects hated him, and they sent a delegation after him, to say: 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

It so happened that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom,

that he commanded these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, so that he might know what they had earned by conducting business. The first came before him, saying: 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas!'

The king said to him, 'Well done, you good servant! Because you were found faithful with very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

The second came, saying: 'Your mina, Lord, has made five minas!'

And so, the king said to him, 'And you are to be set over five cities.' Another came, saying: 'Lord, behold, your mina, which I kept laid away in a

piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a strict man! You take up what you did not lay down, and you reap what you did not sow.'

The king said to him, 'Out of your own mouth will I judge you, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down, and reaping what I did not sow. Why then did you not deposit my money on deposit, and at my coming, I would have collected it with interest on it?' He then said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina

away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'

Now, they said to the master, 'Lord, he [already] has ten minas!' 'For I tell you that to everyone who [already] has, more will be given; but from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. As for those enemies of mine who did not want me to reign over them here, bring them here and kill them before me.'"

Having said these things, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## **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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 31:5

*A Psalm of David.*

I made my sin known to You,  
and no longer hid my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess to the Lord against myself, declaring my sin,"  
and You forgave the ungodliness of my sin.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:33-36

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

No one who has lit a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket! Instead, it is placed on a stand so that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye! Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is full

of darkness. And so, see whether the light that is in you is not darkness. If your whole body is full of light, having no dark part, it will be completely full of light, as when the lamp with its bright shining gives you light." *Glory be to God forever.*

## Tuesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 2:1-15

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

My son, if you receive the words  
of my commandment

And hide them within yourself,

Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,

And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.

For if he calls upon wisdom,

And you utter your voice for understanding;

If you seek perception with a strong voice,

If you seek her as silver

And search for her as treasure,

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord

And find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

And from His face come knowledge and understanding;

And He stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;

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

Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,

And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

And the perception in your soul seems to be good,

Then good counsel will guard you,

And holy thinking will keep you;

That it might rescue you from an evil way

And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness

So they may walk in the ways of darkness,

Who delight in evils

And rejoice in evil perversion,

Whose ways are crooked

And their paths devious.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 10:12-20

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Joshua 7:1-26\*

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

But the children of Israel committed a great offense, for they kept back for themselves something from what was accursed. Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took something from what was accursed, and the Lord was very angry with the sons of Israel. Then Joshua sent men into Ai, which is near Bethel, saying, "Spy out Ai." So the men went up, and spied out Ai. After this, they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Let not all the people go up, but let

about two or three thousand men go up and force the city to surrender. Do not lead all the people there, for they are few in number." Thus, about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the face of the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed thirty-six of them and pursued them from the gate; and they crushed them on the steep slope. So the hearts of the people were terrified and became as water.

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the ground before the face of

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

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

family by family. Then the family the Lord points out, you shall bring household by household. After this, the household the Lord points out, you shall bring man by man. So whoever is pointed out, he shall be burned with fire along with whatever he has, because he transgressed the covenant of the Lord and brought lawlessness in Israel.' "

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

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

to Joshua and the elders of Israel and placed them before the Lord.

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 31:10

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the scourges of the sinner,  
but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:54-59

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

Jesus also said to the multitudes, "When you see a cloud rising from the west, you immediately say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it happens. When a south wind blows, you say, 'There will be a scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky, but how is it that you do not interpret this [present] time? Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? For when

you are going with your adversary before the magistrate, as you are on the way, do your utmost to be released from him, for fear that perhaps he will drag you to the judge, and the judge might deliver you to the officer, and the officer might throw you into prison. I tell you, you will by no means get out of there, until you have paid the very last penny." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

### **Psalm 31:2, 3a**

*A Psalm of David.*

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

[Because] I kept silent, my bones grew old.

*Alleluia.*

### **John 8:31-39**

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

Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!"

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

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

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

They answered him, "Our father is Abraham!"

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 4:19b-6:13

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

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

Me.' But if you refuse to let them go, indeed, I will kill your firstborn son." ' "

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



the mountain of God, and they kissed one another. Then Moses reported to Aaron all the words of the Lord which He sent to him, and all the signs which He commanded him. Thus Moses and Aaron went and gathered together the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron then spoke all the words the Lord spoke to Moses, and he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed and rejoiced because God had visited the children of Israel and because He had seen their affliction. Then the people bowed and worshiped.

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

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people

and their clerks, saying, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks as yesterday and the day before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. Furthermore, you shall lay on them a daily quota of bricks they are to do each day. You shall hold them to it. You shall not reduce it, for they are loafers; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' Let the labors of these men be oppressive and cause them anxiety; and let them not pay attention to empty words."

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

Then the clerks of Israel's sons entered and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants? No straw is given your servants, and they say to us,

‘Make bricks!’ and indeed, your servants are beaten, but the fault is with your own people.” But he said, “You are loafers! You are loafers! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ Now therefore, go and work; for no straw shall be given you; yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks.” So the clerks from the children of Israel saw they were in trouble after it was said, “You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota.”

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

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

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

God also spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their God, but I did not reveal to them My

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Joel 2:21-26

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 9:8-10:4

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

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

Lord. So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel, great and small, in one day. The elder and those who admire persons, this is the head. The prophet who teaches lawlessness, this is the tail. For those who bless this people lead them astray, and they lead them astray so as to destroy them. Therefore God will have no joy in their young men, nor mercy on their orphans and widows. For all of them are lawless and evil. Every mouth speaks injustices. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. For lawlessness burns like fire, and like dry grass, it shall be consumed by fire and burn in

the thickets of the forest. It shall devour all the hills round about. Because of the Lord's wrath the entire land is burned up, and the people are as fuel for the fire. No man will have mercy on his brother. But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand and not be satisfied. Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh. Together they shall besiege Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

“Woe to those who write evil things, for when they write such things, they turn aside judgment from the poor, and rob judgment from the needy of My people, that the widow may be their prey and the orphan a spoil. What will they do in the day of visitation? For affliction will come to you from afar, and to whom will you flee for help? Where will you leave your glory, so as not to fall into captivity?” For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 12, 13, 14

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

Then Job answered and said:

“Moreover you are men.

Surely wisdom will die with you?

But I also have a heart as well as you.

“A righteous and blameless man

Has become an object of mockery.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

Under the power of others at the appointed time,

And his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

Let not, however, any one be persuaded

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

Let not those who provoke the Lord

Be persuaded there will be no trial for them.

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

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

Tell the earth if it may interpret it to you,

And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among all these does not know

The hand of the Lord created them,

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

And the breath of every man?

For indeed, the ear discerns words,

And the palate tastes wheat.

In length of time is wisdom,  
And in long life, knowledge.  
“With Him are wisdom and power;

With Him are counsel and understanding.

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

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

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

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

With Him are might and strength.

He has knowledge and understanding.

He leads counselors away captive  
And makes fools of judges.

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

He sends priests away into captivity

And overthrows the mighty of the  
earth.

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

He pours dishonor on rulers  
And heals the humble.

He uncovers deep things out of  
darkness

And has brought into light the  
shadow of death.

He leads the nations astray and  
destroys them.

He overthrows the nations and  
leads them away.

He changes the hearts of rulers

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

May they grope in darkness,

And may they go astray like a  
drunken man.

“Behold, my eye has seen all these  
things,

And my ear has heard them.

What you know, I also know;

I am not of lesser understanding  
than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the  
Lord

And will reason before Him if He  
wills.

For you are all dishonest physicians  
and healers of diseases.

But would that you were silent,

For it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the conviction of my mouth

And heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord

And utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

But you yourselves be judges.

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

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

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

Will not His terror make you dizzy

And His fear fall upon you?

In the end, your insolence will go  
away like ashes

And your body like clay.

“Be silent, that I may speak

And put my anger to rest,

So I may take my flesh in my teeth

And put my life in my hand.  
Though the Mighty One should  
lay His hand upon me,  
And already He has begun,  
I will speak and reason before  
Him.

This will turn for me into salva-  
tion,

For there shall be no deceit before  
Him.

Listen, listen to my words,  
For I will report them in your  
hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:  
I know I shall appear righteous.  
Who is he who will judge me,  
That I should now be silent and  
be wanting?

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

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

Then You will call, and I will obey  
You;

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

How many are my sins and trans-  
gressions?

Teach me what they are.  
Why do You hide Yourself from  
me

And regard me as Your enemy?  
Will You take heed of me as a leaf  
shaken by the wind?

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

For You wrote evil things against  
me

And compassed me with the sins  
of my youth.

You have put my foot in the  
stocks,

Have watched all my works,  
And have penetrated into the  
roots of my feet,

Which have become old like a  
wineskin

Or like a moth-eaten garment.

“For mortal man born of woman  
Is short-lived and full of wrath.  
He falls like a flower that blooms,  
And like a shadow, he does not  
continue.

Have You not taken account of  
him

And brought him to judgment  
before You?

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

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

His months are numbered by You.

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

Depart from him that he may rest,  
And let him be pleased with his  
life as a hired laborer.

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

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

For though its root may grow old  
in the earth

And its stump may die in the  
rocky ground,

Yet at the scent of water it will  
bud

And bring forth a crop like one  
newly planted.

But a man who dies is utterly  
gone,

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

For in time the sea is drawn down,  
And a river stops flowing,  
And the river bed dries up.

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

For the dead will not awake until  
heaven is dissolved.

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

That You had hidden me until  
Your wrath ceases,

And that You would appoint me a  
set time

In which You would remember  
me.

For will man live again

After he completes his course of  
life and dies?

I will wait until I arise.

Then You will call, and I will an-  
swer You,

But do not cast away the works of  
Your hands.

For You have numbered my prac-  
tices,

And not one of my sins will es-  
cape You.

You sealed up my lawlessness in a  
bag

And marked if I transgressed un-  
willingly.

“Truly a mountain falls and crum-  
bles in pieces;

And a rock wears out in its place.

Waters wear away stones,

And overflowing torrents wash  
away the soil of the earth;

And You destroy the duration of  
man.

You push him to his end, and he  
is gone.

You set your face against him and  
send him away.

If his children multiply them-  
selves, he does not know it,

And if they be few, he does not  
perceive it.

But the muscles of his body feel  
pain,

And his soul grieves.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 26:4abcd

*A Psalm of David.*

One thing I ask of the Lord,  
and seek after,  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:18-22

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

Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which someone picked up and planted in his own garden. It grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air found shelter in its branches."

Again he said, "To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God? It is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

Jesus was on his way through cities and villages, teaching and traveling onward to Jerusalem. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 punishment on the day of judgment, especially those who 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 26:7, 8a

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;  
have mercy on me and hear me,  
[for] my heart speaks to You.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:1-13

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

Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. For forty days, he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days and afterward, when they were completed, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of

God, command this stone to become bread!"

Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

Leading him up on a high place, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of

time. The devil said to him, "I will give you all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I want. If you therefore will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered him, "Get behind me Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and to him only shall you offer divine service.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son

of God, cast yourself down from here, for it is written,

*'He will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you;'*

and,

*'On their hands they will bear you up, lest perhaps you dash your foot against a stone.'*

In reply, Jesus said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until another time. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Thursday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Genesis 18:17-19:29\*

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

Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him." Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go

down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them."

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous

should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Then the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." So Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: But suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" He replied, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." Again he spoke to Him and said, "But suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of forty." Then he said, "Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it if I should find thirty there." Again he said, "Since I have permission to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of twenty." Then he said, "Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

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

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. So when he saw

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

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

But they said, "Stand back! You came in to sojourn among us. Was it also to be making judgments? Now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands, pulled Lot into the

house with them, and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, and they became weary trying to find the door.

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

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

So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, they said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be overtaken." Then Lot said to them, "I pray, O Lord, since Your servant found mercy in Your sight, and You magnified Your righteous-

ness which You showed me by saving my life, nevertheless, I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city, which is small, is near enough to flee to for refuge, and I shall escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." And He said to him, "See, I have acquiesced to you on this matter also, in that I will not overthrow this city, concerning which you have spoken. Therefore, hurry to escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there." For this reason he called the name of that city Zoar.

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

Then Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, a flame was ascending from the land, like the smoke of a furnace. So it came to pass, when God wiped out all the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction, when

the Lord overthrew the cities where  
Lot had dwelt.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

#### Proverbs 2:17-3:4

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

My son, do not lay hold of evil  
counsel,

Nor forsake the teaching of your  
youth

And forget the divine covenant;

For it establishes its house with  
death,

And its paths beside Hades with  
the dead;

All who journey there do not re-  
turn,

Nor do they lay hold of straight  
paths;

For they do not comprehend the  
years of life.

For if they walked in good paths,

They would find the smooth paths  
of righteousness.

The inhabitants of the land will be  
good,

And the simple will be left in it;

For the upright will dwell in the  
land,

And the holy will be left in it.

The ways of the ungodly shall  
perish from the land,

And the lawless shall be banished  
from it.

My son, do not forget my laws,

But let your heart keep my words;

For length of days, and years of  
life and peace

They will add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faith-  
fulness forsake you,

But hang them upon your neck;

And you will find grace

And provide good things before  
the Lord and men.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 11:10-12:2

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

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

Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia, and by  
the Elamites, and from the rising of  
the sun, and out of Arabia. He shall  
set up a sign for the Gentiles and will  
assemble the lost ones of Israel. He  
shall gather together the dispersed of  
Judah, from the four corners of the  
earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall  
depart, and the enemies of Judah shall

be destroyed. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim. But they shall spread sails on the ships of foreigners, and together they shall plunder the sea and the people of the East and Edom. They shall lay their hands first on Moab, but the sons of Ammon shall obey them first. The Lord shall make desolate the Sea of Egypt, and He will lay His hand on the river with a violent wind, and will strike the seven channels, that men might pass across it in sandals. "There shall be a

highway for the remnant of My people in Egypt, and it will be for Israel as in the day he came out of the land of Egypt."

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 9:12, 13a

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,  
for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 20:20-26

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

They watched him and sent out spies who pretended to be righteous in order to trap him in something he said, in order to deliver him up to the power and authority of the governor. They asked him, "Teacher, we know that you say and teach what is right, and that you are not partial to anyone but truly teach the way of God. Is it

lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus perceived their trickery and said to them, "Why are you testing me? Show me a denarius! Whose image and inscription are on it?"

They answered, "Caesar's."

So Jesus said to them, "Then, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and [give] to God what belongs to God!"

And they were not able to ensnare him in his words before the people. They marveled at his answer and remained silent. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalms 9:8, 9a

*A Psalm of David.*

But the Lord continues forever;

He has prepared His throne for judgment.

He will judge the world in righteousness.

*Alleluia.*

## John 12:44-50

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

Jesus cried aloud, "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me! Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the dark. If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I do not judge this person. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world! Whoever rejects me and

does not receive my sayings has a judge [already]: the word that I spoke is what will judge such a person in the last day. For I did not speak from myself; instead, the Father who sent me has given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak." *Glory be to God forever.*

## Friday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

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

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

Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “David is in the desert of En Gedi.” Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaïem. On the way, he came across a flock of sheep,

and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. And David's men said to him, "Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective." So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Then it happened that David's heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. And David said to his men, "The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord." By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul.

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

impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me from you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the ancient proverb says, 'Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.' Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand."

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

my name from my father's house." So David swore to Saul. And Saul went

to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 13:2-13

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Job 15:1-35

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

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

And does he satisfy the pain in his belly,

Arguing with sayings which are not necessary

And with words wherein is no profit?

Have you not moreover cast off fear

And accomplished such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

Nor have you discerned the words of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and not I;

For your lips will testify against you.

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

Or were you made before the beaches?

Have you heard the doctrine of the Lord,

And has wisdom come only to you?

What do you know that we do not?

What do you understand that we do not also?

Both the aged and the very old are among us,

Much older than your father.

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

You have spoken haughtily and exceedingly.

Why has your heart dared,

Or what are your eyes set on,

That you have vented your anger before the Lord

And brought forth such words from your mouth?

“For who is the mortal that shall be blameless,

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

Since He does not trust His saints

And heaven is not pure in His sight?

Alas then, detestable and unclean is a man

Who drinks wrongdoings like water!

“But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now seen,

What wise men say.

They did not hide anything received from their fathers.

To them alone the earth was given,

And no stranger came among them.

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

And the years granted an oppressor are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

And when he at last seems to be at peace,

His destruction comes.

Let him not believe he will return from darkness,

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

He has been appointed to be food for vultures,

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

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

Trouble and anguish will come upon him,

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

For he lifted his hands against the Lord

And acted defiantly against the Almighty Lord.

He ran in His sight with insolence,  
With the thickness of his wide shield.

“For he covered his face with his fat

And put a collar upon his thighs.  
May he lodge in deserted cities  
And enter uninhabited houses;  
And what they prepared, others  
will carry away.

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

Let him not cast a shadow upon the earth,

Neither let him escape the darkness.

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

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

His harvest will perish before its gathering,

And his branch will not flourish.

May he be gathered prematurely like unripe grapes,

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

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

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

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

And his belly shall bear deceit.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Sirach 2:1-3:4

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

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

Prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,

And do not strive anxiously in distress.

Cleave to Him and do not fall away,

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

Accept whatever is brought upon you,

And in exchange for your humiliation, be patient;

Because gold is tested in fire

And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

Make your ways straight and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

And do not turn aside, lest you fall.



You who fear the Lord, believe in Him,

And your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things

And for everlasting gladness and mercy. (\*)

Consider the ancient generations and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken?

Or who called upon Him and was overlooked?

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands,

And to a sinner who walks on two paths!

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

Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

And those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

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

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts

And will humble their souls before Him.

We will fall into the hands of the Lord

And not into the hands of men;

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

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

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

For the Lord honored the father over the children

And strengthened the judgment of the mother over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for his sins;

And he who honors his mother

Is like one who stores up treasure.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

*(\*) Some books end the reading here.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 15:10, 11a

*A Psalm of David.*

For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
nor allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You made the ways of life known to me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 20:27-38

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

Some of the Sadducees came to him, people who deny that there is a resurrection. They asked him, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man dies having a wife and without a child, his brother should take the wife and raise up a posterity for his brother. There were therefore seven brothers: the first took a wife and died childless. The second took her as wife, and he [also] died childless. The third took her, and likewise all seven [brothers] left no children and died. Afterwards, the woman also died. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife."

Jesus replied to them, "The children of this age get married and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead do not marry or are given in marriage. For they cannot die any more, because they are like the angels, and they are children of God, being children of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the [story of the burning] bush, when he called the Lord 'The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Now, he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all are alive to him!"  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalms 15:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Keep me, O Lord, for I hope in You.

I said to the Lord, "You are my God;

You have no need of my goods."

*Alleluia.*

## Luke 11:14-26

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

Jesus was casting out a demon which was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the people were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons!" Others put him to the test and asked from him a sign from heaven. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. A house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul! But if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

When a strong man is fully armed and guards his own house, his goods are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters!

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding no rest, the unclean spirit says, 'I will return to my house from which I came out.' When he returns, he finds it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first." *Glory be to God forever.*

## Saturday of Second (Third) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 129:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

I cry to You, O Lord, out of the depths;

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplication!

*Alleluia.*

Mark 10:17-27

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

As Jesus was setting out on his journey, someone ran to him, knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do in order to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except one: God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not give false testimony,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’”

The man said, “Teacher, I have observed all these things since my youth!”

Jesus looked at him and felt love for him. He then said, “You lack one thing. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor. You will have a treasure in heaven; then come, follow me, taking up the cross.”

However, the man was distressed when he heard this. He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it is for the wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

They were extremely astonished and said to him, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and answered, “With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are

possible with God!” *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 26:6d, 7, 8a

*A Psalm of David.*

I will sing and praise the Lord.  
Hear, O Lord, my voice when I cry;  
have mercy on me and hear me,  
[for] my heart speaks to You.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 18:23-35

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

Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle his accounts with his servants. When he began the settlement, someone was brought who owed him ten thousand talents. But because the servant could not pay, his lord gave orders that he be sold, with his wife, children, and all that he had, so that payment may be made. At this, the servant fell down on his knees before him, saying: 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will repay you all!' The lord of that servant, moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and took him by the throat, saying: 'Pay me what you owe!'

And so, his fellow-servant fell down at his feet and begged him,

saying: 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you!' But the first man would not [have compassion] but went off and had him cast into prison, until he should pay back what was due. When his [other] fellow-servants saw what had been done, they were extremely distressed and came to their lord to report all that had taken place. Then, his lord summoned the [first] servant and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should not you also have had mercy on your fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on you?' His lord was angry and delivered him to the jailers until he would pay all that was due. This is how my heavenly Father will also treat you if you do not each forgive each other from your hearts."

*Glory be to God forever.*

# The Third Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 87:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, God of my salvation,  
I cry before You day and night.  
Let my prayer come before You;  
incline Your ear to my supplication.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 15:1-20

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

Pharisees and scribes then came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying: "Why do your disciples disobey the tradition of the presbyters? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

Jesus answered them, "Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever may tell his father or his mother, 'Whatever support you might otherwise have received from me is now a gift devoted to God,' is not bound to honor his father or mother.' Thus, you have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah

prophesied about you quite well when he said:

*'These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. And in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine rules made by men.'*

Jesus gathered the crowds and said to them, "Hear, and understand. What enters into the mouth does not defile a person, but what comes out of the mouth, this is what defiles a person."

Then, the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

But Jesus answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone! They are blind guides of the

blind; and if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.”

And so, Jesus answered, “Do you still fail to understand? Do not you understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the belly and then out of the body? But the things which come out of the mouth come

from the heart, and they defile the person. Indeed, it is from the heart that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies come forth. These are the things which defile a person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not make anyone impure.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 54:2, 17

*A Psalm of David.*

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  
and do not despise my supplication.  
But I cried to God,  
and the Lord heard me.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 20:1-16

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

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household and who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a [salary of one] denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [Later], he went out when it was about the third hour and saw other men standing idle in the marketplace. He told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ And so, they went their way. Again, he went out when it was about the sixth and the ninth

hour, and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour, he went out and still found others standing idle. He told them, ‘Why do you stand here all day, doing nothing?’

They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us!’

The master told them, ‘You too should go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.’ When evening came, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.’

When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. Now, when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more, but they each likewise received one denarius. When they received it, they grumbled against the master of the household, saying: "These last [workers] have spent one hour, and yet you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!"

But the master answered to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for one denarius? Take what is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last one just as much as to you! Is not it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?' And so, the last will be first, and the first last! Indeed, many are called, but few are chosen." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 consider 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 every-

where, 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 78:8, 9a, half of b

*A Psalm of David.*

Do not remember our transgressions of old;  
let Your compassion overtake us quickly,  
for we have become very poor.  
Help us, O God, our Saviour;  
...for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 15:11-32

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

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.' And the father divided his livelihood between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! I will get up, go to my father,

and tell him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.'"

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. Then the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!' And they began to celebrate.



Now, his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.' But the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him. But he answered his father, 'Behold, for so many years I have served you, and I have never

disobeyed a commandment of yours. But you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## Monday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 29:2, 3, 4a

*A Psalm of David.*

I will exalt You, O Lord,  
for You upheld me,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O Lord, my God, I cried to You,  
and You have healed me.  
O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Hades.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 21:28-32

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

"But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' The son answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his

mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. Which one of

the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to

you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. *Glory be to God forever.*

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Genesis 27:1-41a

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

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

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

and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it and bless you before his death.”

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

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

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

Thus he blessed him and said:

"Surely, the smell of my son

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

Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven

And of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brethren,

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

And cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you."

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

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

Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?" Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

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

And of the dew of heaven from above.

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

That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaia 14:24-32

*From the book of Isaia 14:24-32. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 16, 17

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

Then Job answered and said:

"I have heard many such things;

You are all bad comforters.  
What order is there in words of  
wind?

Or what troubles you, that you  
answer thus?

I also could speak as you do,  
If indeed your soul were in my  
soul's place.

Then I would attack you with  
words

And shake my head at you.

But would there were strength in  
my mouth:

Then I would not spare the  
movement of my lips.

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

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

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

And you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testi-  
mony.

It rises up and argues against me  
to my face.

He vented His wrath and struck  
me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

The arrows of the raiders fell on  
me.

He attacked me with the sharp  
darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek;

With one accord they ran me  
down.

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

And cast me upon the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He rejected  
me.

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

He set me up as a mark.

They surrounded me with spears  
aimed at my mind.

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

Running at me with all their  
strength,

They knocked me down, head  
over heels.

I sewed sackcloth on my skin,

And my strength is spent on the  
ground.

My belly is on fire because of  
weeping,

And shade is on my eyelids.

Yet there was no wrongdoing in  
my hands,

And my prayer is pure.

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

Nor may my cry have a place.

Now behold, my witness is in the  
heavens,

And the One who knows me  
thoroughly is on high.

May my supplication come before  
the Lord,

And may my eyes pour out tears  
in His presence.

May there be rebuttal for a man  
before the Lord,

As a son of man with his neigh-  
bor.

For my years are numbered,

And I shall go the way of no return.

"I am perishing, carried away by the wind;

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

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

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is he? Let him join hands with me.

For You hid their heart from discernment;

Therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will declare evils as their portion,

But my eyes melt away because of my children.

"But You made me a byword among the people,

And I have become an object of laughter to them.

For my eyes are petrified because of Your wrath,

And I am greatly besieged by everyone.

Amazement seizes true men because of this,

And the righteous man rises against the lawless man.

May the faithful man hold to his way,

And may those who have clean hands take courage.

"Nevertheless, all of you stick together,

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

My days have passed in groaning

And my heartstrings are broken.

Light turned night into day.

It is near at the appearance of darkness.

If I tarry, Hades is my home,

And my bed is spread in darkness.

I called upon death to be my father

And decay to be my mother and my sister.

Where then is my hope,

Or where shall I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

Or shall we go down together in the tomb?"

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 54:2, 26:7b, 8a

*A Psalm of David.*

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  
and do not despise my supplication.

Have mercy on me and hear me  
[for] my heart speaks to You.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 14:7-15

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

When Jesus noticed how people chose the best seats, he told the guest a parable, saying, “When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit in the best seat. It could be that someone more honorable than you might have been invited by the host, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, ‘Make room for this person.’ Then, with shame, you would proceed to take the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. And so, when the host comes, he may tell you, ‘Friend, move up higher!’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Jesus also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen or rich neighbors because they might return the favor and pay you back. Instead, when you give a feast, ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind [to come]. Then, you will be blessed, because they do not have the means to pay you back. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will feast in the Kingdom of God!”  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 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 repent-

ance [that leads] to life!"

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

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 54:17, 18bc

*A Psalm of David.*

I cried to God,  
and the Lord heard me.  
I will declare,  
and He will hear my voice.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 16:1-9

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

Jesus also said to his disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.'

The manager said within himself, 'What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' Calling each one of his lord's debtors to him, he said to the first, 'How

much do you owe to my lord?' The man replied, 'A hundred measures of oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' That one said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Tuesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 28:10-22

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

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not

leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Now Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone he put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. Thus Jacob called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was Luz previously.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 25:1-26:9a

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

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God, in

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

1In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: "Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 18:1-21

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

“How long will you keep talking?

Pay close attention so we may also speak.

Why have we been silent before you

Like four-footed animals?

Wrath possesses you. Suppose you die;

Would the earth under heaven be uninhabited,

Or the mountains be overturned from their foundations?

“The light of the ungodly will go out,

And their flame will not go up.

His light shall be dark in his dwelling,

And his lamp beside him shall be put out.

May the least of men pounce on his goods,

And let his counsel stumble him.

For his foot has been caught in a snare,

And he is entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him.

He shall strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

A snare is hidden in the ground for him,

And a capture awaits him on the beaten paths.

May sorrows destroy him on every side;

And may many enemies come about him

And plague him with severe hunger,

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

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

For death will consume his beauty.

May health be banished from his dwelling,

And may distress seize him because of a royal decree.

It shall dwell in his tent at night,

And his goodly appearance shall be sown with brimstone.

His roots shall be dried out from below,

And his crop shall be trampled from above.

His memory shall perish from the earth,

And his name shall be remembered no more.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He shall not be known among his people,

Nor his house preserved on the earth;

But others shall live among his possessions.

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

These are the dwellings of wrongdoers,

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Sirach 8:1-10:1

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

Do not contend sharply with a  
powerful man,

Lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

Lest he resist your force,

For gold has destroyed many

And perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend sharply with a  
talkative man,

And do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with an uncultivated  
man,

Lest your forefathers be insulted.

Do not insult a man who turns  
away from sin;

Remember that we are all valuable.

Do not dishonor a man in his old  
age,

For some of us are growing old as  
well.

Do not rejoice over any dead per-  
son;

Remember that we all must die.

Do not disregard a saying of the  
wise,

But be conversant with their  
proverbs;

Because from them you will gain  
instruction

And how to serve noble people.

Do not miss a saying of the old,

For they themselves learned from  
their fathers;

Because from them you will gain  
understanding

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

Do not kindle the coals of a sin-  
ner,

For you may be burned by his  
flame.

Do not let the presence of an in-  
solent man

Arouse you from your seat,

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

Do not lend to a man stronger  
than you;

But if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety beyond your  
ability to pay;

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

Do not go to law against a judge,

For they will decide for him be-  
cause of his reputation.

Do not travel on a journey with a  
reckless man,

Lest he weigh you down;

For he will do his will,

And you will perish with him in  
his folly.

Do not cause a fight with an angry  
man,

And do not go into a lonely place  
with him,

Because murder is as nothing in  
his eyes,

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

Do not consult with a fool,  
For he will not keep a matter confidential.

Do nothing confidential in the presence of a stranger,

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

Do not open your heart to everyone,

Lest unkindness be shown to you.

Do not be jealous of the wife of your bosom

And so teach her an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

To let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a woman who is a courtesan,

Lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

Lest you be caught in her schemes.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

Lest you stumble and pay damages for her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look around in the streets of a city,

And do not wander about in its deserted sections.

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

And do not gaze at beauty belonging to another.

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

And erotic love is like a burning fire.

Never dine with another man's wife,

And do not share in parties with her over wine,

Lest your soul turn aside to her,

And you slip and with your spirit fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

For a new one is not equal with him.

A new friend is like new wine;

Drink it with pleasure only after it ages.

Do not envy the honor given a sinner,

For you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly;

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

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

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

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

Lest he take away your life.

Know that you are stepping in the midst of snares

And walking about the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbors as best you can

And consult with those who are wise.

Let your reasoning be with those who are wise,

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

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

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

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

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

A talkative man is regarded with fear in his city,

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

A wise leader will educate his people,

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 16:1

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness; attend to my supplication.

Give ear to my prayer, [which is] from lips without deceit.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 21:28-32

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

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. The father came to his second son, and said the same thing. The son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which one of the two sons did the will of his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I tell you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. After seeing this, you did not even repent and you did not believe him. *Glory be to God forever.*



## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

### Psalm 16:6

*A Psalm of David.*

I cried out, O God, and You heard me;  
incline Your ear to me, and hear my words.  
*Alleluia.*

## Luke 9:57-62

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

As they went on the way, a certain man said to him, “I want to follow you wherever you go, Lord!”

Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He said to another, “Follow me!” But the man said, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.”

But Jesus replied, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But you go and announce the Kingdom of God.”

Another also said, “I want to follow you, Lord, but first allow me to say goodbye to those who are at my house!”

But Jesus said to him, “No one who has put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### Exodus 7:14-8:15

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

So the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. Then you shall say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert”; but indeed, until now you would not hear. Thus says the Lord: “By this you shall know I am the

Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river.”’ ” Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of

Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.’ ”

So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said. Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

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

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

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

Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. Then they

gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.'" Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the

dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Joel 3:1-5

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Job 1:1-22

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

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five

hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and

drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, "Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God." Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, "Where did you come from?" So the devil answered the Lord and said, "I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven." Then the Lord said to him, "Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?" So the devil answered and said before the Lord, "Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face." Then the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him."

Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job's sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, "The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then raiders came and took them captive and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, "Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother, and suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped, saying, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord

has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 26:21-27:9

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 17:38, 41

*A Psalm of David.*

I will pursue my enemies and overtake them;  
and I will not turn back until they fail.

And You have made my enemies to turn their backs to me,  
and utterly destroyed those who hate me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 14:16-24

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

But Jesus replied, "A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. At supper time, he sent out his servant to tell those who were invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now!' But they all began to make excuses.

The first told him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!'

Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!'

Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!'

That servant came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.'

The servant said, 'Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!'

The lord then told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled! For I tell you that none of those who were invited will taste of my supper.'"

*Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 17:18, 19a

*A Psalm of David.*

He will deliver me from my powerful enemies,  
and from those who hate me,  
for they are too strong for me.

They overtook me in the day of my affliction.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 4:35-41

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

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told

him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, saying to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He then asked his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?"

They were greatly afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## Thursday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Genesis 32:2-30

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

So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. When

Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's encampment"; and he called the name of that place Encampments.

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

Again Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, 'Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,' let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, 'I will

surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "

So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves." And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?' Then you shall say, 'Your servant Jacob's. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.' " So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.' " For he said to himself, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not

let You go unless You bless me." So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men."

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 28:14-22

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

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, "We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected"; therefore, thus says the Lord: "Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will

also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope." Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 20:1-29

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

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

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

Nor do you understand more than I.

I will heed the discipline of my humiliation,

And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

“Have you not heard these things of old—

From the time man was put on the earth?

For the gladness of the ungodly is a disastrous fall,

And the joy of transgressors is destruction.

Though his gifts ascend to heaven

And his sacrifice touches the clouds,

Just when he already seems to be established,

Then he shall utterly perish;

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

Like a dream he flew away and cannot be found;

And he fled like a vision of the night.

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

Nor will his place any longer behold him.

May his children perish,

And may his vile hands kindle the fire of sorrows.

His bones were full of his youthful vigor,

Which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth, And he will hide it under his tongue,

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

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

Yet he shall be unable to help himself,

For the gall of an asp is in his belly.

His wealth gathered unjustly shall be vomited up,

And a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he nurse on the anger of serpents;

And may a snake’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

Nor his supplies of honey and butter.

In vain he has labored unprofitably for wealth,

Of which he will not taste;

For it is like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he crushed the houses of many weak people.

He plundered their dwelling and caused it to cease.

“There is no salvation in his possessions,

For he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his good things will not flourish.

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

For every trouble will come upon him.

If he were to satisfy his stomach in some way,

Let God send the fury of wrath upon him,

And may He bathe him in sorrows.

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

May a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pass through his body,

And may lightning strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that will not go out will consume him.

May a stranger ruin his house.

May heaven uncover his lawlessness,

And may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

And may a day of wrath come upon him.

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Daniel 6:2-28

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

It pleased Darius to set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so they might be throughout his entire kingdom. He also set three administrators above these, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, that the king might not be troubled. But Daniel excelled beyond them, because there was an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. The administrators and governors sought to find some charge

against Daniel, but they could find no charge or wrongdoing or fault against him because he was faithful. Then the administrators said, “We will find nothing against Daniel unless we find it in the laws of his God.”

So the administrators and the governors stood before the king and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm

decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now therefore, O king, establish the decree and exhibit the writing publicly, so the decree of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed.” Then King Darius gave orders to write the decree.

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

Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is from the captives of Judea, does not obey your order concerning the decree you commanded, for he prays and petitions his God three times a day.” Then when the king heard this word, he was very sad in himself, and he struggled hard to deliver Daniel, and did his best to deliver him until evening. Then those men said to the

king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute the king establishes can be altered.”

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

Then the king arose early in the morning at daybreak and went in haste to the den of lions. As he approached the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they did not destroy me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and I did no wrongdoing in His sight.”

Then the king rejoiced greatly over him and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den; and no corruption was



found in him, because he believed in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought the men who brought charges against Daniel; and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. They did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

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

“May peace be multiplied to you.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 11:8

*A Psalm of David.*

You, O Lord, will guard us,  
and preserve us from this generation and forever.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 3:7-12

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

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they

would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, “You are the Son of God!” He sternly warned them that they should not make him known. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalm 47:11c, 12

*A Psalm of David.*

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion be glad,

and let the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of Your judgments, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 18:35-43

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

As he came near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant. People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He cried out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” Then, those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do?”

The man replied, “Lord, that I may see again!” Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you.”

Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people

saw this, they praised God. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Friday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

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

“So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His ordinances I command you today for your good? Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did

these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy-five souls, and now, the Lord your God made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

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

eyes saw all the great works the Lord did for you today.

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

“So if you earnestly obey all His commandments I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then He will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, wine, and olive oil. I will also send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be filled. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord’s anger be aroused against you and He shut up heaven, so there may

be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land the Lord gave you.

“Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be immovable before your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates, that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land the Lord swore to give your fathers, like days of heaven on earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments I command you today—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—then the Lord will cast out all these nations from before your face, and you will inherit greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the desert and Antilebanon, and from the great Euphrates River, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against your face; the Lord your God will put the dread and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, in the manner the Lord said to you.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God I command you

today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but go astray from the way

I command you today, to go after different gods you have not known.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 29:13-23

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

So the Lord said, "These people draw near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and hide the understanding of the intelligent." Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us or what we do?" Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is molded of clay say to him who molded it, "You did not create me"? Or shall the work say to him who made it, "You did not make me wisely"? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? In that day, the

deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, as well as those who cause men to sin in word. They shall make all who condemn at the gates an offense, because they turned aside the righteous man with wrongdoing. Therefore the Lord says this concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart out of Abraham: "Now Jacob shall not be ashamed, nor shall Israel now change his countenance. But when their children see My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 21:1-34

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

Then Job answered and said:

"Listen carefully to my words,

That I may not have this consolation from you.

Bear with me and I will speak;

Then you will stop laughing at me.  
“What? Is there any one who does  
not blame me?

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

For even when I remember, I am  
alarmed,

And pains take hold of my flesh.

Why do the ungodly live and be-  
come old, even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to  
their desire,

And their children are before their  
eyes.

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

Neither is there any affliction  
from the Lord upon them.

Their ox does not miscarry,

For it is preserved safe during  
pregnancy

And does not suffer a mishap.

They remain as an unfailing herd,

And their children dance,

Taking up the psaltery and harp;

And they celebrate at the sound of  
song.

They spend their life in their good  
things

And fall asleep in the rest of the  
grave.

Yet such a man says to the Lord,

‘Depart from me. I do not wish to  
know Your ways.

What is a sufficient reason for us  
to serve Him?

What benefit is it for us to meet  
Him?’

For their good things are in their  
power,

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

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

Destruction shall come upon  
them,

And the sorrows of wrath will  
seize them.

They are like chaff before the  
wind,

And they are like dust a storm  
carries away.

May his possessions fail to supply  
his children.

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

May his eyes see his own slaugh-  
ter,

And may he not be saved by the  
Lord.

For is his will not in his house  
with himself?

But the number of his months has  
been apportioned.

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

Does not He judge murders?

One shall die in the strength of his  
simplicity,

And wholly at ease and prosper-  
ous.

His innards are full of stiff fat,

And the marrow of his bones is  
dissipated.



Another dies under bitterness of  
soul,

Not eating any good thing.

They lie down together in the  
earth,

And decay covers them.

Thus I know you press me reck-  
lessly.

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

Where is the shelter of the dwell-  
ing place of the ungodly?'

Ask those who travel the road,

And do not overlook their signs.

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

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

Who will tell him his way to his  
face?

Who will recompense him for  
what he has done?

Yet he is brought to the grave,

And a vigil is kept over the coffin.

The pebbles of the valley have  
been sweet to him.

Every man shall depart after him,

As countless have departed before  
him.

How then can you comfort me  
with empty words,

Since I have no rest from you?"

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

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

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

Now the Babylonians had an idol  
whose name was Bel, and every day  
they spent on it twelve bushels of fine  
flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of  
wine. The king adored it and went  
every day to worship it; but Daniel  
worshiped his own God. So the king  
asked him, "Why do you not worship  
Bel?" Daniel answered, "Because I do  
not worship idols made with hands,  
but only the living God who created  
heaven and earth and has dominion  
over all flesh." The king said to him,  
"Do you not think Bel is a living god?  
Do you not see how much he eats

and drinks every day?" Daniel smiled  
and said, "Do not be deceived, O  
king, for it is but clay inside and  
bronze outside, and it has never eaten  
or drunk anything."

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

Now there were seventy priests of  
Bel, besides their wives and children,  
and the king went with Daniel into  
the temple. Then the priests of Bel

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

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food for Bel. And Daniel ordered his servants to bring in ashes, which they sprinkled throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door, sealed it with the king's signet, and departed. During the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king rose early the next morning, and Daniel with him. Then the king said, "Are the seals intact, Daniel?" Daniel answered, "They are intact, O king." As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table and cried out in a loud voice, "Great are you, O Bel, and with you there is no deceit at all." Then Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. He said, "Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are." The king replied, "I see the footprints of men, women, and children." With great anger, the king

seized the priests and their wives and children, and they showed him the hidden doors where they came in and consumed such things as were upon the table. Therefore the king put them to death and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

There was also a large serpent the people of Babylon worshiped. So the king said to Daniel, "Will you also say this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, he eats, and he drinks—you cannot say he is no living god. Therefore worship him." Daniel replied, "I will worship the Lord my God; for He is the living God. But with your permission, O king, I shall slay this serpent without sword or staff." The king said, "I will give my permission." Then Daniel took pitch, tar, and hair; these he boiled together and made cakes, and put them in the mouth of the serpent. The serpent ate them and burst open. Then Daniel said, "Behold the things you have been worshiping."

Now when the people of Babylon heard what had been done, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, "The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death." Going to the king, they said, "Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house." Now when the king saw they were pressing him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They threw Daniel into

the lions' den, where he was left for six days. Now there were seven lions in the den, and they had to give them two carcasses every day and two sheep. But these things were not given to them now, so they might devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the fields to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said unto Habakkuk, "Go, carry the dinner you have into Babylon to Daniel, who is in the lions' den." Habakkuk said, "O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, nor do I know the den." Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. Habakkuk

cried out, saying, "O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal God has sent you." Daniel said, "You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You." So Daniel arose and ate; and the angel of the Lord immediately set Habakkuk down in his own place once more.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 27:6, 7a, half of b

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed be the Lord, for He has heard  
the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector;  
my heart hopes in Him.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:31-37

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

He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. He was teaching them on the Sabbath day, and they were astonished at his teaching because his word was with authority. In the synagogue, there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ah! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" When the demon had thrown the man among them, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

Amazement came on all, and they spoke together, one with another, saying, "What is this word? For he commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!" News about him went out into every place of the surrounding region.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## **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. \*<sup>[He</sup>

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.*

\* <sup>[</sup> *lacking in Kitchener*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 27:2

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear, O Lord, the cry of my supplication  
when I pray to You,  
when I lift up my hands  
towards Your holy temple.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 15:21-31

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

Jesus then left that area and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders, and cried out, “Have mercy on me, Lord, you son of David! My daughter is severely demonized!”

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

His disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away! She is shouting after us!”

However, Jesus answered, “I was not sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Still, the woman came forward and worshiped him, saying, “Lord, help me.”

But he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

But she replied, “Yes, Lord, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done to you even as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Jesus departed and came near the sea of Galilee. He went up into the mountain and sat there. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the

lame, blind, mute, crippled, and many others; and they put them down at his feet. He healed them, and the crowds were amazed when they saw the mute

speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Saturday of Third (Fourth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 141:6, 8ab

*A Psalm of David.*

I cried to You, O Lord,  
I said, "You are my hope,  
my portion in the land of the living."  
Bring my soul out of prison,  
that I may confess Your Name.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have

mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.'

But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.'

He said, 'I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!'

But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

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, 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 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 60:2, 6bc

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear my supplication, O God;  
attend to my prayer.  
You give an inheritance  
to those who fear Your Name.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to

farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat

one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: 'They will respect my son!' But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?"

They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*'The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people considered him to be a prophet. *Glory be to God forever.*

# The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 26:14, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

Wait on the Lord,  
have courage, and let your heart be strong;  
and wait on the Lord!  
I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:22-31

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore, I tell you not to be anxious about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing! Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not have a warehouse or barn and [yet] God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Which one of you by worrying can add a single day to his life? If you are not able to accomplish even the smallest things, why then are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not

toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you." *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 30:25, 24ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Take courage and let your heart be strong,  
all you who hope in the Lord.  
Love the Lord, all you His Saints,  
for the Lord requires truth.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Jesus now addressed them with another parable, saying: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who planned a wedding feast for his son. He then sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. Again, the king sent out other servants, saying: 'Tell those who are invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner! My cattle and my fatted calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!"' But those who were invited made light of it and went off, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the others seized the king's servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. When the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and to burn their city.

Then, the king said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the crossroads of the highways, and as many people as you may find, invite to the wedding feast.'

Those servants went out into the highways and gathered as many people as they could find, both good and bad. Thus, the wedding [hall] was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not wearing a wedding garment. He asked him, 'Friend, how did you come in here, not wearing a wedding garment?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.' For many are called, but few chosen." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 104:3b, 4, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Seek the Lord and be strengthened;

continually seek His face.

Remember the wonders He has done,

His miracles and the judgments of His mouth.

*Alleluia.*

John 4:1-42

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



Then, when the Lord learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea and departed into Galilee. Now, he needed to pass through Samaria. And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me [something] to drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

The Samaritan woman then said to him, “How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never

be thirsty again. Not only this, the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered, “I have no husband!”

Jesus replied, “You said well, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully.”

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

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming,” (he who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then, his disciples arrived. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What are you looking for?" or, "Why do you speak with her?" Then, the woman left her water jar, went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I have done! Could this be the Christ?"

The people [then] went out of the city, and were coming to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, "Rabbi, eat!"

But he told them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

The disciples then said one to another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months until the harvest comes?' Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at

the fields! They are already white for the harvest! [Already], he who reaps is receiving his wages and gathering fruit to eternal life; so that both the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together! For in this, the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into [the rewards of] their labor."

Many of the Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who had testified, "He told me everything that I did!" For this reason, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. So, he stayed there two days, and many more believed because of his word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, but because we have heard for ourselves and [we] know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Monday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Evening or Vespers Gospel**

Psalm 31:10, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the scourges of the sinner,  
but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.  
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
and glory, all you upright in heart.

*Alleluia.*

John 4:19-24

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

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

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

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

**The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Proverbs 3:5-20a

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

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

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

And your foot will not stumble.

Do not rely on your own discernment,

But fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there shall be healing for your body

And care for your bones.

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors,

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

That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain,

And your winepresses may gush with wine.

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

Neither grow weary under His reproof.

For whom the Lord loves He instructs,

And chastises every son He receives.

Blessed is a man who finds wisdom,

And a mortal who sees discernment;

For the profits gained from wisdom are better

Than the treasures of gold and silver.

And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones,

And nothing evil will withstand her;

She is well known to all who come near her,

And no honor is worthy of her.

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

And in her left hand are riches and glory;

Righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

And she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

And all her paths are in peace.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Isaias 37:33-38:6

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

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

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

Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 22:1-30

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

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

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

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

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

Will He argue with you while you plead your case?

Will He enter into judgment with you?

Is not your vice plentiful,  
And are not your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges from your brethren for no reason

And taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

But have even withheld a morsel from the hungry.

You have also admired the personality of some

And have transplanted those already settled on earth.

You have sent widows away empty

And have mistreated orphans.

Therefore snares are all around you,

And a serious war has troubled you.

The light has turned to darkness for you,

And water has covered you as you fell asleep.

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

Does He not humble those who move about with insolence?

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

Will He judge down into the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding place, so He cannot see

As He travels through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep to the old path  
Which wrongdoers have trod,  
Who were seized before their time  
And whose foundations were swept away by a flood;

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

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

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

But the counsel of the ungodly is far from Him.

“The righteous have seen it and laughed,

And the innocent mocked them.

Surely their substance has perished,

And fire will consume what is left.

Eliphaz Exhorts Job to Be Strong  
“Be strong, therefore. If you endure,  
Then your fruit shall be in good things.  
Receive utterance from His mouth  
And lay up His words in your heart.  
If you return and humble yourself before the Lord,  
You have caused wrongdoing to be far from your dwelling.  
Then you will lay up treasure for yourself  
Like a mound on a rock,  
And you shall be like the gold of Ophir  
On a rock in the brooks.  
So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

And He will restore you as pure as silver purged by fire.  
For then you will speak freely before the Lord,  
Looking up cheerfully to heaven.  
When you pray to Him, He will hear you,  
And He will allow you to pay your vows.  
He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,  
And there shall be light on your paths.  
You will say, ‘He behaved arrogantly, but he humbled himself,  
And He will save him who bows down with his eyes.’  
He will deliver the innocent,  
And you will save yourself in the purity of your hands.”  
*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 87:3b, 4, 5a

*A Psalm of David.*

Incline Your ear to my supplication[, O Lord].  
For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my soul draws near to Hades;  
I am counted among those who go down into the pit.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 12:16-21

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

Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, "The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. He thought to himself, 'What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!' Then the man said, 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. Then I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many

goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!"

But God said to him, 'You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared - whose will they be?' This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward God." *Glory be to God forever.*

## **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 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.

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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:3, 4

*A Psalm of David.*

Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I will cry to You all day long.  
Gladden the soul of Your servant,  
for I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:12-17

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

Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place."

But Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." (For they were about five thousand men).

Jesus then said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." They did so, and

made them all sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the

multitude. Everybody ate, and all were satisfied. The disciples gathered up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Tuesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Numbers 10:34-11:35

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

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

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

Now the mixed multitude among them hungered exceedingly; and sitting down, the children of Israel were also weeping, and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the

leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes except this manna." Now the manna is like coriander seed, and its form is like the form of ice pellets. The people would go about and gather it, and grind it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, then cook it in pots, and make cakes of it; and its flavor was like the taste of a pastry prepared with oil and honey. And when the dew descended on the camp in the night, the manna descended upon it.

Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their tribes, everyone at his door; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You maltreated Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the wrath of this people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to

the land You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ I am not able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, kill me here and now—if I find mercy in Your sight—and do not let me see my maltreatment.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone. Then you shall say to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept before the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month you shall eat, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

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

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Is the Lord’s hand unable to provide for them? Now you shall know whether or not My word will overtake you.” So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord descended in the cloud and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Lord Moses, forbid them.” Then Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my

sake? Would that all the Lord's people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them." So Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Now a wind went out from the Lord and brought birds from the sea that migrate together with quail, and cast them upon the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Then the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 3:21-4:8

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

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

With perception the depths were  
broken up,

And the clouds flowed with dew.

My son, do not be careless,

But keep my counsel and thinking,

That your soul may live,

And grace may be around your  
neck.

And there will be healing for your  
flesh

And care for your bones,

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

And your foot may not stumble.

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

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

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

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

For the Lord will be over all your  
ways,

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

Do not withhold doing good to  
the needy,

When you may give a helping  
hand;

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

"Come back tomorrow, and I will  
give you something";

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

Do not devise evil things against your friend

Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.

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

Lest he do you some harm.

Do not incur the reproach of evil men,

Neither seek their ways;

For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord,

And he does not sit among the righteous.

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

But He blesses the dwellings of the righteous.

The Lord opposes the arrogant,

But He gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But the ungodly exalt dishonor.

Hear, my children, the instruction of your father,

And pay attention, that you might know his thinking;

For I offer a good gift to you;

Do not forsake my law.

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

And beloved in the presence of my mother,

Who taught me, saying,

“Let our word become firmly planted in your heart;

Guard our commandments; do not forget them;

Neither disregard the word of my mouth,

Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you;

Love it, and it will keep you.

Secure it, and it shall exalt you;

Honor it, that it may embrace you,

And give your head a crown of graces,

And cover you with a crown of delight.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 40:1-8

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

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every

valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass,

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 25:1-26:14

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

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered  
and said:

"What beginning or fear is His—

He who makes all things in the  
highest heaven?

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

Upon whom will there not be an  
ambush from Him?

How shall a mortal be righteous  
before the Lord?

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

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

And the stars are not pure in His  
sight.

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

But Job answered and said:

"To whom are you attached,

Or whom are you going to help?

Is it not He who has great strength

And whose arm is powerful?

To whom have you given counsel?

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

Or whom will you follow?

Is it not One who has the greatest  
power?

To whom have you spoken  
words?

Whose breath came forth from  
you?

"Will giants be born under the  
water

And those inhabiting them?

Hades is naked before Him,

And destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind  
upon nothing;

He hangs the earth on nothing.

He binds up the water in His  
clouds,

Yet the cloud is not broken under  
it.

He grasps the face of His throne

And spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the  
water by an ordinance

Until the end of light and dark-  
ness.

The pillars of heaven were spread  
all over

And stood amazed at His rebuke.

He checked the sea with His pow-  
er,

And by His understanding He  
wounded the sea-monster.

For the bars of heaven fear Him,

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

Behold, these are parts of His way,

And we will hearken to the least of  
His words.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 85:5, 6

*A Psalm of David.*

For You, O Lord, are kind and gentle,  
and abounding in mercy to all who call on You.  
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,  
and attend to the cry of my supplication.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 9:14-24

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

Returning to the [other] disciples, Jesus saw a great crowd around them and scribes questioning them. At once, when all the people saw him, they were greatly amazed and rushed to greet him. Jesus asked the scribes, "What are you asking them about?"

In the crowd, someone said, "Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute spirit. Wherever the spirit seizes him, it throws him to the ground and my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able."

Jesus answered him, "Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me."

They brought the son to him, and when he saw Jesus, the spirit immediately convulsed the boy who fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood", he answered. Often, it has thrown him both into the fire and into water, in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us!"

Jesus said to the man, "If you are able! All things are possible to the one who believes!"

Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, "I believe! Help my unbelief!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:17ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Work a sign for good in my midst,  
and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed.

*Alleluia.*

John 8:12-20

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

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

At this, the Pharisees said to him, "You bear witness to yourself! Your testimony is not true!"

Jesus answered them, "Even if I bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the

Father who sent me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two people is truthful. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me [also] bears witness to me."

At this, they asked him, "Where is your Father?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." Jesus spoke these words in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. Yet no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 8:16-9:35

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

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

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land." But Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. We will go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us." Pharaoh then said, "I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God

in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord." Then Moses said, "Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord."

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

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and you shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go so they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the fields—on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep—a very severe pestilence. Then I will make a clear distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel." ' ' ' "

Then God appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land." So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the cattle of the Egyptians died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel,

not one died. Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one among the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh; and let it become dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." So they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven; and they caused boils to break out in sores on man and beast. Now the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers and in all the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said to Moses.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, so they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues into your very heart, and on your servants and your people, that you may know there is not another such as I in all the earth. For now I will stretch forth My hand and smite you and kill your people, and you will be cut off from the earth. But for this very reason were you

preserved, that I might display in you My strength, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. As yet, you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time, I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore, hurry now and gather your cattle and all you have in the fields, for the hail shall come down on every man and animal found in the fields; and whatever is not brought home shall die." ' ' ' Thus he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his cattle into the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and cattle in the field.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the

children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are ungodly. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer." So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord's. But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord." Now the flax and the

barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 41:4-14

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

Who worked and performed these things? He called righteousness, He who calls it from generations of old. I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One will say, 'The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer and forges at the same time.' Sometimes one will say, 'It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved.'

"But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of Abraham, whom I loved. I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you, 'You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand.' Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as though they did not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. You shall seek but not find the men who rage

against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they did not exist. For I am your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear

not.' O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel," says God.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Joel 4:9-21

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 28:12-28

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

"But where can wisdom be found?

What is the place of understanding?

Mortal man has not known its way,

Nor is it found among men.

The deep said, 'It is not in me';

And the sea said, 'It is not with me.'

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

Nor can silver be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with the gold of Ophir,

With the precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal will equal it,

Nor can it be exchanged for vessels of gold.

No mention shall be made of coral and quartz,

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

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,

Nor can it be compared with pure gold.

"From where then is wisdom found,

And what is the place of understanding?

It has been hidden from every man

And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Destruction and Death said,

'We have heard about its fame.'

God has well established its way,

And He knows its place.

For He watches over the whole earth under heaven,

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

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

When He made them, He numbered them

And made a way for the claps of thunder.

Then He saw wisdom and declared it;

He prepared it and traced it out.

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

And to abstain from evils is understanding.'"

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 4:9-18

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

Hear me, my son, and receive my words,

And the years of your life shall be increased,

That many ways of life may be yours;

For I teach you the ways of wisdom

And set you on upright paths.

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

And if you run, you will not grow weary.

Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go,

But guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

But turn aside from them and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;

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

For they feed on the bread of ungodliness,

And they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

They go before and give light until full daylight.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

They do not know how they stumble.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

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

There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. He had two wives. The name of onewas Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. To Hannah, he gave one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved

Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah." And she said to him, "Here I am, lord." Then he said to her, "What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?" So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the



Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, "O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head."

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

and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

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

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

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

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

And she said:

"My heart is strengthened in the Lord;

My horn is exalted in my God.

I smile at my enemies;

I rejoice in Your salvation.

Because no one is holy like the Lord,

No one is righteous like our God,

No one is holy but You.

Do not boast nor speak of high things;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For the Lord is the God of knowledge;

And God is preparing His actions.

He weakened the bow of mighty men,

And those who are weak are girded with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

And the hungry have forsaken the land.

The barren woman has borne seven,

And she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and rich;

He brings low and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth

And lifts the needy from the dung heap,

To set them among princely people

And make them inherit a throne of glory.

The One who gives a prayer to the one praying,

He blesses with righteous years;

For by strength no man can prevail.

The Lord makes His adversaries weak;

The Lord is holy.

Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding,

Nor let the man of might boast in his might,

Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.

Only let the one who boasts boast in this:

To understand and to know the Lord

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

The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered.

The Lord judges the ends of the earth.

He gives strength to our leaders,

And He will exalt the horn of His Christ."

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

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

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

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

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 54:2, 3a

*A Psalm of David.*

Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  
and do not despise my supplication.  
Attend to me, and hear me.

*Alleluia.*

## Mark 10:1-12

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

Jesus then left that place and arrived to the borders of Judea and beyond the Jordan. Again, crowds were gathering around him. As he usually did, he taught them again. Pharisees came to test him, asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

Jesus answered, "What instructions did Moses give you?"

They replied, "Moses allowed a certificate of divorce to be written, and to divorce her."

But Jesus said to them, "It was because of your hardness of heart that Moses wrote this law for you.

But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother, and will join to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. Thus, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one tear apart!"

In the house, his disciples asked him again about the same matter. He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalms 85:13, 14a

*A Psalm of David.*

Your mercy towards me is great,  
and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.  
O God, the transgressors have risen against me.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:6-9

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

He then said this parable. "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to look for fruit

on it, but found nothing. He said to the vine dresser, 'Behold, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree for

three years, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?' The gardener answered, 'Lord, let it be for this year also, until I dig

around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.'” *Glory be to God forever.*

## Thursday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Isaias 42:5-16

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

Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them.

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Proverbs 4:19-28

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

My son, give heed to my word  
 And incline your ear to my words,  
 That your fountains may not fail  
 you;  
 Guard them in your heart;  
 For they are life to those who find  
 them  
 And healing for all their flesh.  
 Keep your heart with all watchful-  
 ness,  
 For from these words are the is-  
 sues of life.  
 Put away from yourself a crooked  
 mouth  
 And remove unrighteous lips far  
 from you.  
 Let your eyes look straight for-  
 ward,

And let your eyelids assent to  
 righteous things.  
 Make straight paths for your feet  
 And direct your ways aright.  
 Do not turn aside to the right or  
 to the left,  
 But turn your foot from an evil  
 way;  
 \**[For God knows the ways on the  
 right hand,*  
*But those on the left are perverse;*  
*And He shall make your paths*  
*straight*  
*And guide your steps in peace.]\**  
*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

### Job 29:2-20

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

“Who may put me in months past,  
 As in the days when God protect-  
 ed me—  
 As when His lamp shone upon my  
 head,  
 And by His light I walked in the  
 darkness;  
 As when I steadfastly pursued my  
 ways,  
 When God’s visitation was over  
 my house;  
 As when I lived in abundance,  
 And my children were around me;  
 As when my roads spread out with  
 butter,  
 And the mountains flowed with  
 milk for me;

“As when I went early in the city,  
 And took my seat in the open  
 square;  
 The young men saw me and hid,  
 And all the old men stood up.  
 The great men refrained from  
 talking  
 And put their finger to their  
 mouth.  
 Those who heard me blessed me,  
 And their tongue stuck to their  
 throat.  
 The ear heard and blessed me,  
 And the eye saw me and turned  
 aside.  
 For I saved the poor from the  
 hand of the oppressor



And helped the orphan who had no helper.

The blessing of the perishing man came upon me,

And the widow's mouth blessed me.

I put on righteousness

And clothed myself with judgment like a robe.

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

I was the father of the weak,

And I searched out the cause I did not know.

I broke the molars of the wrongdoers

And plucked the spoil from the midst of their teeth.

"Then I said, 'My age shall continue as the stem of a palm tree,

And I shall live a long while.'

My root was spread out to the waters,

And the dew would settle on my harvest.

My glory was fresh within me,

And my bow prospered in its hand.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

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

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

me." Eli answered, "I did not call you. Return and lie down."

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

And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold! I shall execute My words in

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

So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord’s house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called to Samuel, “Samuel, my child!” And he an-

swered, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you.” Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him.”

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

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 85:14

*A Psalm of David.*

O God, the transgressors have risen against me,  
and an assembly of violent men have sought my soul,  
and did not set You before them.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:37-43b

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

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great multitude met him. A man from the crowd called out, saying, “Teach-

er, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. Behold, when a spirit seizes him, he suddenly cries out and it convulses him so that he foams [at

the mouth]. It scarcely ever leaves him and is breaking him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

Jesus answered, “Faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”

While the boy was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him violently. But Jesus

rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the majesty of God.

[And all marveled at all that Jesus did.]\*

*Glory be to God forever.*

\*Based on the Arabic. EOB reads “But while all were marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,”

## 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 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 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:17

*A Psalm of David.*

Work a sign for good in my midst,  
and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed,  
because You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:10-17

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

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. Behold, there was a woman who had

had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up. When Jesus

saw her, he called her, and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!” He laid his hands on her and immediately, she stood up straight and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the crowd, “There are six days in which people should work! Therefore, come on those days and be healed, not on the Sabbath day!”

Then, the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each one of you free his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath, and lead it out to water? Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham who was bound by Satan for eighteen years, be freed from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame and all the people rejoiced over all the glorious things that were done by him. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Friday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

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

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

“These are the ordinances and judgments you shall be careful to

observe in the land the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to inherit, all the days you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places the nations you will inherit served their gods: on the high mountains, on the hills, and under the tree of the grove. So you shall destroy their altars, break their pillars, cut down their groves, burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and destroy their name from that place. You shall not do thus with the Lord your God. But you shall seek the place the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name and to be called on there; and you shall go and seek Him there. There you shall bring your whole

burnt offerings, sacrifices, firstfruits, prayers, voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your oxen and sheep. There you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God blessed you.

“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—for as yet, you have not come to the rest and the inheritance the Lord your God gives you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, and you dwell in safety, then there will be the place the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all I command you today: your whole burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the first fruits of your hands, and all your gifts and all your choice gifts you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself, do not offer your whole burnt offerings in every place you see; but in the place the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes; there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all I command you today.

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

“Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your oxen and sheep the Lord gave you in the manner I commanded you, and may eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. Only be sure not to eat

the blood, for the blood is the life; the life will not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. Only the holy things you have and your vowed offerings you shall take and go to the place the

Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall offer your whole burnt offerings; you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall eat the meat.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

*From the Third book of Kings.*

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

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can

drink." She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But the woman said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." But Elijah said to her, "Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.' " So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.



Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son." But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, "Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered

her by killing her son." Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him." So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 5:1-12

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

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

And I command you with the  
perception of my lips.

Do not join yourself to a base  
woman,

For honey drips from the lips of a  
prostitute,

Or for a season she is pleasing to  
your taste;

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

And sharper than a two-edged  
sword.

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

Her footsteps are not planted,  
For she does not travel the ways  
of life;

And her paths are slippery and not  
easy to discern.

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

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

That you may not give away your  
life to others

And your existence to the merciless;

That strangers may not be filled  
with your strength,

And your labors go into the houses  
of strangers,

And you should feel regret at the last,

When the flesh of your body is consumed;

And you will say, "How I hated instruction

And turned my heart away from reproofs."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 43:1-9

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

And now, thus says the Lord God who made you, O Jacob, and who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I redeemed you. I called you by your name, for you are Mine. If you pass through water, I am with you; and the rivers shall not overflow you. If you pass through fire, you shall not be burned up, nor shall the flame consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, who saves you. I made Egypt and Ethiopia your ransom and gave Seba on your behalf. Since you were precious in My sight, you became glorious, and I love you. I will give many men for you and rulers to lead you. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the

west. I will say to the north, 'Bring them,' and to the south, 'Do not keep them back. Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone called by My name.' For in my glory I prepared him, and formed and made him. I brought forth the blind people, and their eyes are alike blind, and their ears deaf." All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 30:9-32:5

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

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

They detest me and keep their distance.

They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

For He has opened His quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off restraint in my presence.

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

And they stretched out their foot

And directed against me their  
paths of destruction.

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

He shot me down with His arrows  
And used me as He wished.

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains are turned upon me.

My hope is gone like the wind

And my salvation like a cloud.

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

And the days of pains seize me.

By night my bones are set on fire,

And my sinews are broken up.

With great force He took hold of  
my garment,

And like the collar of my tunic He  
surrounded me.

You regarded me as clay in the  
earth,

And my portion is with ashes.

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

They stood and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy

And scourged me with a strong  
hand.

You appointed pains for me

And cast me away from salvation.

For I know death will destroy me,

For the earth is the house for every  
mortal.

“Would that I might lay hands on  
myself,

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

Yet I wept over every man with-  
out strength

And groaned when I saw a man in  
distress.

But while I held firmly to good  
things,

Days of evils happened to me  
instead.

My stomach churns and will not  
be quiet,

And days of poverty have come  
upon me.

I go groaning without restraint;

I stand up and cry out in the  
church.

I have become a brother of sirens

And a companion of sparrows.

My skin has been greatly dark-  
ened,

And my bones are burned by the  
heat.

My lyre turned into mourning

And my song into my weeping.

“I have made a covenant with my  
eyes,

And I will not think upon a virgin.

What has God apportioned from  
above,

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

Is not destruction for the wrong-  
doer,

And alienation for those who do  
lawlessness?

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

“If I have walked with scorners,

Or if my foot has hastened to  
deceit,

May He weigh me therefore with a  
just scale,

For He knows my integrity.  
If my foot has turned from the way,  
Or if my heart has followed after my eyes,  
Or if gifts have touched my hands,  
Then may I sow and others eat.  
Yes, may I be uprooted on the earth.  
“If my heart has followed after another man’s wife,  
Or if I have laid wait at her door,  
Then also may my wife please another,  
And may my children be humiliated.  
For the rage of anger is uncontrollable  
In defiling another man’s wife.  
For it is a fire burning on every side,  
And whomever it comes upon, it destroys at the roots.  
If I have despised the judgment of my servant or handmaid  
When they judged me,  
What then will I do when the Lord brings me to trial and visits me?  
How shall I answer Him?  
Did not He who made me in the womb make them?  
So we were fashioned in the same womb.  
“But the weak did not miss whatever they happened to need,  
And I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.  
If I ate my morsel by myself

And did not share it with the orphan  
(But from my youth I nourished them as a father,  
And from my mother’s womb I guided the widow);  
If I have neglected the naked as he was perishing  
And did not clothe him;  
If the weak did not bless me,  
And if their shoulders were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs;  
If I raised my hand against the orphan,  
Trusting that my strength was far superior to his,  
Then let my shoulder fall from my collarbone;  
Let my arm be torn from its socket.  
For the fear of the Lord seized me,  
And I cannot endure His burden.  
If I have made gold my strength  
Or trusted the precious stone,  
If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,  
And if I, too, laid my hand on countless treasures  
(Or do I not see the shining sun eclipsed and the moon waning?  
For this does not depend upon them);  
If my heart has been secretly deceived,  
And if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it,  
Then may this also be reckoned to me

As the greatest lawlessness;  
For I have lied against the Lord  
most high.

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

And my heart said, ‘Good! Well  
done!’

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

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

(But I was very kind.  
For the stranger did not spend the  
night outside;

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

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

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

So as not to confess before them);  
And if I permitted a poor man to  
go out of my door

With an empty bosom  
(Who may listen to me?);

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

And as to the document I had  
against someone,

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

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

Having taken nothing from the  
debtor;

“If at any time the land groaned  
against me

And its furrows wept together,  
If I have eaten its strength alone  
without paying,

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

By casting him out,  
Then may the nettle come to me  
instead of wheat,

And bramble instead of barley.”  
Thus Job ceased speaking.

Job’s three friends also ceased  
answering him, for he was righteous  
before them. Then Elihu the son of  
Barachel the Buzite, of the family of  
Ram, of the country of Ausitis,  
became furious; and he was very  
angry with Job, because he declared  
himself to be righteous before the  
Lord. He was also very angry with  
Job’s three friends, because they  
found no answer to Job, and yet  
affirmed he was an ungodly man.  
Now because they were years older  
than he, Elihu waited to speak to Job.  
So when Elihu saw there was no  
answer in the mouth of these three  
men, his wrath was aroused.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 85:9, 10a

*A Psalm of David.*

All the nations[, which] You have made,  
will come and worship You, O Lord,  
and they will glorify Your Name.

For You are great, and work wonders.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 12:28-34

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

One of the scribes came and heard them debating. Knowing that Jesus had answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”

Jesus answered, “The greatest is, ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The scribe said to him, “It is well, teacher, that you have said truly that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with the whole heart, and with the whole mind, with the whole soul, and with the whole strength; and to love one’s neighbor as oneself. It is more important than any whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that the scribe had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God!”

No one dared to ask him any [other] question after that. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 reprov'd 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.*



## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 137:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,  
and I will sing to You in the presence of the angels,  
for You heard the words of my mouth.  
I will bow down toward Your holy temple.

*Alleluia.*

John 8:21-27

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

Then, Jesus spoke to them again, “I am going away; you will seek me, and you will die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come.”

At this, the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”

Jesus said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you therefore that you will die in

your sins; for unless you believe that I am {he}, you will die in your sins.”

Therefore, they asked him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning! I have much to say concerning you and [much] to condemn. these [things] I say to the world.”

They did not understand that he spoke to them about the Father. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Saturday of Fourth (Fifth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 64:3, 4a

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

The words of the ungodly have overwhelm us.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 15:3-10

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

So Jesus told them this parable. "Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing! Coming home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, telling them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than

over ninety-nine righteous who need no repentance.

Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins and lost one, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and look hard until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying: 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma coin which I had lost!' Likewise, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." *Glory be to God forever.*

### The Pauline Epistle

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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 142:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, hear my prayer;  
give ear to my supplication in Your truth;  
Hear me in Your righteousness,  
and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 23:13-39

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

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

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, 'If someone swears by the

sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, 'If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill,

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

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

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have partaken with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore, you testify to your-

selves that you are children of those who killed the prophets! Fill up, then, the measure [of sin] of your forefathers. You serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, behold, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. Some of them, you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. Thus all the righteous blood shed on the earth will come upon you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, 'Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!'"

*Glory be to God forever.*

# The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 38:13

*A Psalm of David.*

“Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and give ear to my supplication;  
do not be silent at my tears.  
For I am a sojourner before You,  
and a stranger, as all my fathers were.”

*Alleluia.*

Luke 18:1-8

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

Jesus also told them a parable [illustrating] that they must always pray and not give up, saying: “In a certain city, there was a judge who did not fear God and did not care [about anyone]. A widow lived in that city, and she often came to him, saying: ‘Defend me from my adversary!’ For a time, he would not [do anything], but after a while, he said to himself, ‘Although I neither fear God nor care for anyone, yet because this widow is

bothering me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual visits.’”

The Lord said, “Listen to what the unrighteous judge has to say! Will not God grant justice to his elect who are crying out to him day and night, although he exercises patience regarding them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly! And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 101:2, 3a, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
and let my cry come to You.  
Do not turn Your face from me;  
But You, O Lord, remain forever,  
and Your remembrance is from generation to generations.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 21:33-46

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

Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other servants, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then, he sent his son to them, saying: 'They will respect my son!' But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' And so, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?"

They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*'The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'*

Therefore, I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and it will be given to a people bringing forth its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and whoever it will fall on will be scattered as dust."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he had spoken about them. They began to look for a way to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the people consid-



ered him to be a prophet. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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 Pamphylia, 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalm 32:5, 6

*A Psalm of David.*

He loves mercy and justice;  
the earth is full of the Lord’s mercy.  
By the Word of the Lord the heavens were established,  
and by the breath of His mouth, all their hosts.

*Alleluia.*

John 5:1-18

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

After these things, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem, by the sheep gate, there is a pool with five porches called in Hebrew “Bethesda”. Under these laid a great

multitude of people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at certain times into the pool, and stirred up the water. Then whoever stepped in first after the

stirring of the water was made whole of whatever disease he had. A certain man was there, who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that the man had been sick for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man replied, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, someone else steps down before me!"

Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your mat, and walk!"

Immediately, the man was made well; he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now, it was the Sabbath on that day. And so, the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath! It is not lawful for you to carry the mat!"

The man answered them, "He who made me well, that one said to me, 'Take up your mat, and walk.'"

Then they asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your mat, and walk?'"

But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn in the crowd that was there.

Later, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well. Sin no more, so that nothing worse may happen to you!"

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him because he did these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I am also working." Because of this, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, not only because he broke the Sabbath, but also because he called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. *Glory be to God forever.*

## Monday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 141:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

I cried to the Lord with my voice,  
I prayed with my voice to the Lord.  
I will pour out my prayer before Him;  
I will declare my affliction in His presence.

*Alleluia.*

Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!"

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man blasphemes!"

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is

easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or, 'Get up, and walk?' But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (then he said to the paralytic), "Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house."

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men. *Glory be to God forever.*

**The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Proverbs 8:1-11

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

You shall proclaim wisdom  
That discernment may obey you;  
For she is on the lofty summit  
And stands in the midst of the  
paths.

For she sits beside the gates of  
princes

And sings at the entrances,  
"You, O men, I exhort,  
And I utter my voice to the sons  
of men;

Understand astuteness, O simple  
ones,

And put it in your heart, O unin-  
structed ones.

Obey me, for I speak sacred  
things,

And from my lips I will bring  
forth things that are true.

For my mouth shall speak the  
truth,

But false lips are an abomination  
before me.

All the words of my mouth are  
with righteousness;

There is nothing in them crooked  
or twisted.

All things are evident to those  
who understand

And true to those who find  
knowledge.

Lay hold of instruction and not  
silver,

And knowledge rather than tested  
gold,

And choose perception rather  
than pure gold.

For wisdom is better than precious stones,

And every costly thing is not worthy of her.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 43:10-28

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

“You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God, “and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness,” says the Lord God. “Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?”

Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. I am the Lord God, your Holy One, who made known your King, O Israel.” Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty water, who brings forth chariot and horse, and a mighty host. But they fell asleep, and shall not arise. They are extinguished, like a quenched lamp-wick: “Do not remember the former things, nor reason about the things of old.

Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth, and you shall know them; and I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the waterless places. The wild animals of the field will bless Me, the sirens and the daughters of sparrows, because I gave water in the wilderness and rivers in the waterless place, to give drink to My race, My chosen, My people whom I preserved to declare My virtues. I have not called on you now, O Jacob, neither have I made you grow weary, O Israel. You have not brought Me sheep for your whole burnt offerings, neither have you glorified Me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense. Neither have you purchased sweet incense for Me with money, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins and wrongdoings. I, even I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember them. But remember, and let us judge; tell your lawless first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and their rulers after them, acted lawlessly against Me. Your rulers defiled My holy things; thus I gave Jacob to destruction and Israel for reproach.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Job 32:6-16

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

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

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

Therefore I was silent

And dared not declare my  
knowledge to you.

I said, ‘It is not time that speaks,

Though in many years, men know  
wisdom.’

But there is a spirit in mortals,

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

The long-lived are not always wise,

Nor do the old men always know  
judgment.

“Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me,

I also will declare what I know.’

Pay close attention to my words,  
For I will speak in your hearing,  
while you examine my words,

And until I shall understand you.

So behold, not one of you an-  
swered Job in argument;

Lest you say, ‘We have found wis-  
dom added to the Lord.’

But you permitted a man to speak  
such words.

“They were dismayed and an-  
swered no more;

They made their words obsolete.

I waited, for they did not speak.

Because they stood still, they did  
not answer.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

### Psalm 37:10

*A Psalm of David.*

O Lord, all my desire is before You,  
and my groaning is not hidden from You.

*Alleluia.*

### Mark 12:1-12

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

He began to speak to them in  
parables. “A man planted a vineyard,

put a hedge around it, dug a pit for  
the winepress, and built a tower. He



then rented it to tenant farmers and left for another country. When it was time, he sent a servant to the farmers to receive his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But they took the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty. Again, the owner sent another servant to them, and they threw stones at him, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. Again he sent another; and they killed him along with many others, beating some, and killing some. The man still had one left to send, his beloved son. Finally, he sent him to them, saying: 'They will respect my son!' But the tenants of the vineyard said among themselves, 'This is the heir! Come,

let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!' They took him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come to destroy the farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture:

*'The very stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the head of the corner.*

*This is the Lord's doing,*

*And it is marvelous in our eyes'?*

They kept trying to arrest Jesus, but they feared the multitude because they understood that he had spoken the parable against them. So they left him and went away. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **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 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 34:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

Judge those who wrong me, O Lord;  
fight against those who fight against me!  
Take hold of weapon and shield,  
and rise up to help me!

*Alleluia.*

## Luke 13:1-5

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

At that time, some [Jews] were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no,

but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way! Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell. Do you think that they were worse offenders than all those who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" *Glory be to God forever.*

## Tuesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### Proverbs 8:12-21

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

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

The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness,

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

And I hate the perverted ways of evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

Discernment is mine, and strength is mine;

By me, kings reign,

And princes write of righteousness;

By me, noblemen become great,

And by me, monarchs have power in the land.

I love those who love me,

And those who seek me shall find me.

Riches and glory belong to me,

And abundant possessions, and righteousness;

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

And my fruits are better than choice silver.

I walk in the ways of righteousness,

And I am conversant with the paths of judgment;

That I may distribute substance to those who love me,

And may fill their treasuries with good things.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 44:1-8

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

Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel, whom I chose. Thus says the Lord God who made you, and formed you from the womb: "You will yet be helped; fear not, Jacob My servant, and Israel, My beloved, whom I chose. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a waterless place. I will put My Spirit upon your seed and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of the water and like willows by the flowing water. One will say, 'I am God's,' and will call himself by the name of Jacob. Another will write, 'I am God's,' and call himself by the name of Israel."

Thus says God, the King of Israel who delivers him, the God of hosts: "I am the first and the last; besides Me there is no God. Who is just as I am? Then let him stand, let him call and prepare for Me that from which I made man forever, and let them declare to you the things that are coming before they come. Do not hide yourselves. Have you not paid attention from the beginning, and have I not declared it to you? You are My witnesses, if there is a God besides Me? Indeed there was none.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 32:17-33:33

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

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

The spirit within my stomach is killing me.

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

Bound up and ready to burst,

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

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

I will not feel shame before any man,

Neither indeed will I feel shame before any mortal.

For I do not know how to flatter persons,

Or else the moths would eat me.

"Nevertheless, hear my words, Job,

And pay close attention to what I say.

For behold, I have opened my mouth

And my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart shall be found pure;

And the understanding of my lips  
will think pure thoughts.

The divine Spirit has made me,

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

Give me an answer to these things  
if you can.

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

You and I were formed out of the  
clay;

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

My fear will not distract you,

Neither shall my hand be heavy on  
you.

“However you said in my hearing  
(I heard the voice of your words),

For you say, ‘I am pure, for I have  
not sinned.

I am blameless, for I have not  
acted lawlessly.

Yet He has found a charge against  
me;

He has counted me as His enemy.

He has put my feet in the stocks,

And He watches all my paths.’

“For how can you say,

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

For He that is above mortals is  
eternal.

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

For when the Lord speaks once,

Or in another time in a dream,

Or in a meditation of the night

(As when dreadful fear falls upon  
men

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

So as to turn man from his  
wrongdoing;

Thus He delivers his body from a  
fall.

He keeps back his soul from death  
And does not allow him to fall in  
war.

“Again He also chastens him with  
sickness on his bed,

And the multitude of his bones  
grow numb.

He is not able to receive any food,

Though his soul may long for it,

Until his flesh wastes away

And he shows his bones bare.

His soul also draws near to death

And his life to Hades.

“If there are a thousand death-  
bringing messengers,

None of them shall wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn  
to the Lord,

And declares to man his fault, and  
shows his folly,

He will support him, that he might  
not fall into death;

And He will renew his body like  
fresh plaster upon a wall,

And fill his bones with marrow.

He will make his flesh young like a  
child’s

And restore him among men in  
full manhood.

He shall pray to the Lord, and his  
prayer shall be accepted.

He shall come to prayer with an innocent face

And with an utterance of thanksgiving,

For He will restore righteousness to men.

Even then, a man shall blame himself, saying,

'I am to blame because of what I did,

Yet He has not examined my guilt  
To the extent of my unworthiness.'

Save my soul from going down to corruption,

So my life shall see the light.

"Behold all these things:

The Mighty One works three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death

That my life may praise Him in the light.

"Give ear, Job; listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will speak.

If you have anything to say, answer me;

Speak, for I desire you to be declared as righteous.

If not, listen to me;

Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### 4 Kings 5:1-27 or 2 Kings 5:1-27\*

*From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now Naaman, commander of the army of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord gave victory to Syria. The man was mighty in strength and valor, but a leper. And the Syrians, lightly armed, had gone out on raids and brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet of God in Samaria! For he would expel his leprosy from him." And she went in and told her master, saying, "This is what the girl from the land of Israel said." Then the king of Syria said to Naaman, "Go now, and I will send a

letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand gold shekels, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, "Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I am sending Naaman my servant to you, so that you may heal him of his leprosy."

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, able to kill and make alive, to heal this man of his leprosy that this man sends to me? You perceive and see that this man is using this as a pretext for a quarrel with me." When Elisha

the man of God heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent notice to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let Naaman come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel."

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious and went away, saying, "Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Then his servants approached and said to him, "If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, 'Bathe and be clean.' " So Naaman went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha's instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed. Then he, with all his aides, returned to Elisha and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I have come to know that in all the earth

there is no God except the God of Israel. Now accept the gift of your servant." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." Again he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, "If not, then, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of red earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful with your servant: when my master goes there, to the house of Rimmon, to worship, he will rely on my hand, and I will worship in the house of Rimmon. In the worship in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter." Then Elisha said to Naaman, "Go in peace."

He departed from him but a short distance. Then Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, said, "Behold, my master spared this Syrian Naaman, yet from his hand he received nothing of what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something of his." So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he turned from the chariot to meet him. And Gehazi said, "Peace. My master sent me saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets came to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.' " Then Naaman said, "Take two talents of silver." So



Gehazi took two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants. They left and carried them on ahead of him. As they entered into the darkness, he took them from their hands and stored them in the house. He then dismissed the men. Now he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "From where have you come, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

Then Elisha said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man

turned back from his chariot to meet you? And now you received the silver and the garments, and it shall happen that you shall receive from him gardens and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and menservants and handmaidens. And the leprosy of Naaman shall also cling to you and your seed forever." Thus he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

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

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 34:13

*A Psalm of David.*

I put on sackcloth  
when they troubled me,  
and I humbled my soul with fasting;  
and my prayer will return into my bosom.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 4:22-30

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

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

He said to them, "With doubt, you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard was done at Capernaum, do

also here in your hometown.'" He continued, "Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the

land Elias was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian.”

As they heard these things, all were filled with wrath in the synagogue. They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to throw him off the cliff. But he, passing through their midst, went his way. *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 41:2

*A Psalm of David.*

My soul longs for You, O God,  
as the deer longs for springs of water.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 9:18-22

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

Once, as Jesus was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the multitudes say that I am?”

They answered, “‘John the Baptist,’ but others say, ‘Elias,’ and others, that one of the old prophets is risen again.”

Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God!”

But he warned them, and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the presbyters, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## Wednesday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Exodus 10:1-11:10

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

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death." So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you." But Moses said, "No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Thus our cattle shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our

God, and even we do not know in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there."

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, "Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die." So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

Now the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here. Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing." So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne even to the firstborn of the female servant behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against not even one of the descend-

ants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.' And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Go from here, and all the people who follow you.' After that I will go out." Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt." So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 44:21-28

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

"Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you to be My servant; therefore, you, O Israel, do not forget Me. For behold, I blotted out your lawlessness like a cloud and your sins like darkness. Return to Me, and I will redeem you. Be glad, O heavens, for the Lord had mercy on Israel. Sound the trumpet, you foundations of the earth; shout with gladness, you mountains and hills and every tree on them. For God redeemed Jacob, and Israel will be glorified."

Thus says the Lord, who redeems you and forms you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who accomplishes all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and established the earth.

Who else will scatter abroad the sign of ventriloquists and the divinations from their heart, turning their shrewd men backward and making their counsel foolishness? Who else establishes the word of His servant, proving the counsel of His messengers to be true? Who else says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' and to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built, and the desert places shall spring forth'? Who else says to the deep, 'You shall be dried up, and I will dry up your rivers'? Who else tells Cyrus to be wise, and do all My will, and says to Jerusalem, 'You will be built, and I shall lay the foundation of My holy house'?"

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 8:23-35

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

The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works;

He established me in the beginning before time,

Before He made the earth, and  
before He made the abysses,

Before the going forth of the  
fountains of waters,

Before the mountains were creat-  
ed;

And He begot me before all hills.

The Lord made the fields and the  
uninhabited places

And the inhabited heights under  
heaven.

When He prepared heaven, I was  
present with Him,

And when He set apart His throne  
upon the winds.

When He made strong the things  
above the clouds,

And made sure the fountains un-  
der heaven,

And made strong the foundations  
of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

I was He in whom He rejoiced;

Daily and continually I was glad-  
dened by His face.

When He completed the world,  
He rejoiced,

And He rejoiced in the sons of  
men.

Now therefore, my son, hear me:

Blessed is the man who shall  
hearken to me

And the man who shall guard my  
ways;

Who watches daily at my doors,

Who keeps watch at the doors of  
my entryways;

For my issues are the issues of life,

And grace is prepared from the  
Lord.

But those who sin against me act  
ungodly toward their own souls,

And those who hate me love  
death.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Job 34:1-37

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

Elihu continued and said:

“Hear me, O wise men who are  
present,

And pay close attention to what is  
good.

For the ear tests words as the pal-  
ate tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for our-  
selves;

Let us know among ourselves  
what is good.

For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,

And the Lord has taken away my  
judgment.’

But he spoke untruth in my judg-  
ment when he said,

‘My wound is severe, though I am  
without wrongdoing.’

What man is like Job,

Who drinks scorn like water?

For he says, ‘I have not sinned,  
nor committed ungodliness,

Nor had anything in common  
with the workers of lawlessness,



So as to walk with ungodly men.’  
For you should not say, ‘There shall be no visitation of a man,’

Whereas there is a visitation on him from the Lord.

“Therefore listen to me, you wise in heart:

May it be far from me to act in an ungodly way before the Lord

And to pervert righteousness before the Almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

And in a man’s path He will find him.

Do you think the Lord will do wrong,

Or will the Almighty who made the earth pervert judgment?

Who is He who created everything under heaven

And all things therein?

If He should wish to hold and restrain His breath within Himself,

All flesh would die together,

And every mortal would return to the ground

From which he was formed.

Take heed to this, lest He warn you;

Pay close attention to the voice of His words.

Behold then the one who hates lawless things

And destroys the evil ones.

He is forever righteous.

He is ungodly who says to a king,

‘You act contrary to the law,’

And to rulers, ‘O, most ungodly one.’

Such a man is not ashamed

Before the face of an honorable man,

Nor does he know how to give honor to the great,

So as to show proper respect.

But it will prove to be in vain for them to cry out

And beg the favor of a man;

For they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

“For He is the observer of the works of man,

And nothing of what they do escapes Him.

There is no place for the workers of lawlessness to hide themselves.

He need not further consider a man,

For the Lord gazes upon all men.

He comprehends unsearchable things,

Glorious also and extraordinary things without number.

He discloses their works;

And He will overthrow them in the night,

And they will be brought low.

He extinguishes the ungodly,

For they are visible before Him,

Because they turned aside from the law of God

And would not regard His ordinances,

So as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;

For He will hear the cry of the poor.

He will provide quietness, and who shall condemn Him?

And He will hide His face, and who shall see Him?

Whether it be done against a nation or a man jointly,

To cause a hypocrite to be king,

Because of the discontent of the people.

“For there is one that says to the Mighty One,

‘I have received blessings; I will not take in pledge;

I will see apart from myself;

Show me if I have done unrighteousness,

And I will do so no more.’

Will He not take vengeance for it from you,

Because you failed to listen to your conscience?

For you will choose, and not I;

Therefore, speak what you know.

“For this reason wise men in heart shall say this,

And a wise man listens to my word.

But Job has spoken without understanding,

And his words are without knowledge.

But learn, Job, and no longer answer like that of foolish men,

That we add not to our sins;

For lawlessness will be counted against us

If we speak many words against the Lord.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Sirach 10:1-31

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

A wise leader will educate his people,

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

As goes the leader of a people, so also are his officials,

And all the inhabitants of a city will reflect its ruler.

An undisciplined king will ruin his people,

But a city will be made habitable through the wisdom of its rulers.

The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord,

And He will raise up the right man for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the hand of the Lord,

And He confers His honor upon the person of the scribe.

Do not cherish anger against your neighbor for any injury,

And do nothing by acts of insolence.

Arrogance is hateful before God and man,

And wrongdoing is offensive to both.

Dominion is transferred from  
nation to nation

Because of wrongdoing, insolence,  
and wealth.

How can he who is earth and ash-  
es be arrogant?

Because even while living, his in-  
sides are decaying.

A physician scoffs at a long illness,  
And a king today will also die to-  
morrow.

When a man dies, he will inherit  
Reptiles, wild animals, and worms.

The beginning of a man's arro-  
gance is to depart from the Lord,

For his heart withdraws from the  
One who created him.

For the beginning of arrogance is  
sin,

And he who takes hold of it will  
pour out an abomination.

Therefore the Lord will bring  
them extraordinary distress

And completely destroy them.

The Lord pulls down the thrones  
of rulers

And seats the gentle in their place.

The Lord plucks out the roots of  
nations

And plants the humble in their  
place.

The Lord overthrows the lands of  
the nations

And destroys them to the founda-  
tions of the earth.

He removes some of them and  
destroys them,

And puts an end to their memory  
on the earth.

Arrogance was not created by  
mankind,

Nor fierce anger by the offspring  
of women.

What kind of seed is honored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honored?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonored?

Those who transgress the com-  
mandments.

Among brothers their leader is  
honored,

And those who fear the Lord are  
honored in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before  
the obtaining of authority,

But roughness and pride is the  
losing thereof.

The rich and the honored and the  
poor alike—

Their boasting is the fear of the  
Lord.

It is not right to dishonor an intel-  
ligent poor man,

Nor is it proper to honor a sinful  
man.

The nobleman, the judge, and the  
ruler will be honored,

But none of them is greater than  
the one who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a  
wise servant,

And an understanding man will  
not grumble.

Do not put your wisdom on dis-  
play when you do your work,

Nor magnify yourself in the time  
of your trouble.

Better is he who works and has  
plenty

Than he who magnifies himself  
but has no bread.

My son, honor your soul with  
gentleness

And give it honor according to its  
worth.

Who will declare righteous the  
man who sins against his soul,

And who will honor the man who  
dishonors his life?

A poor man is honored for his  
knowledge,

While a rich man is honored for  
his wealth.

If a man is honored in poverty,

How much more in wealth,

And if a man is dishonored in  
wealth,

How much more in poverty?

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 101:18,

*A Psalm of David.*

He regarded the prayer of the humble,  
and will not despise their supplication;  
to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion  
and His praise in Jerusalem.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 7:1-20

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

Then the Pharisees and some of  
the scribes came from Jerusalem and  
gathered to [see] Jesus. When they  
saw some of his disciples were eating  
bread with defiled (that is, unwashed)  
hands, they found fault. (For the  
Pharisees and all the Jews hold to the  
tradition of the presbyters and do not  
eat unless they wash their hands and  
forearms. [Also], they do not eat  
when they return from the market-

place unless they [first] bathe them-  
selves; and there are many other  
things which they have received and  
observe: washings of cups, pitchers,  
bronze vessels, and couches.) The  
Pharisees and the scribes asked him,  
“Why is it that your disciples do not  
live by the tradition of the presbyters,  
but eat their bread with unwashed  
hands?”

Jesus answered them, “Well did Isaias prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*‘This people honors me with their lips,*

*but their heart is far from me.*

*But in vain do they worship before me,*

*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’*

Indeed, you set aside the commandment of God and hold fast to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.” He said to them, “How ingeniously do you reject the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother;’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother should be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever [support] you might have received from me is Corban (that is, dedicated to God)”’ then you no longer allow him to do

anything for his father or mother. Thus, you nullify the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many [other] things like this.”

Jesus called the entire crowd to himself and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand! There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile; it is what comes out of a person that defile the person. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!”

When he had entered into a house away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, “Are you also without understanding? Do you not perceive that whatever goes into someone from the outside cannot defile that person because it does not go into his heart but into the stomach, and then into the sewer (thus he declared all foods to be clean)?” He said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles that person. *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalms 9:12, 13a

*A Psalm of David.*

Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations,  
for while avenging blood, He remembers them.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 11:45-52

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

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

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

prophets and apostles. Some of them they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.' Yes, I tell you that this generation will be charged with this blood. Woe to you experts of the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge; you yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering." *Glory be to God forever.*

## Thursday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

4 Kings 4:8-37 or 2 Kings 4:8-37

*From the Fourth book of Kings.*

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, "Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place." Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and

turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, "Say now to her, 'Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?' " But she answered, "I dwell among my own people."

So Elisha said, "What then is to be done for her?" And his servant, Gehazi, replied, "She certainly has no son, and her husband is old." Then Elisha called her, and she stood by



the door. And Elisha said, "About this time next year, you shall embrace a son." So she said, "No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!" Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew.

And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, "My head, my head!" His father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, "Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back." So he said, "Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she replied, "It is well."

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "Peace." Now she came to the man of God on the hill

and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me." So she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?"

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child is not awakened."

Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and

said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, "Take your son." So she went in, fell at his feet,

and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 45:1-10

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

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. "I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth

bring forth mercy and righteousness together. I am the Lord who created you.

"As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, 'What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?' As though one should say to his father, 'What will you beget?' Or to his mother, 'What will you bring forth?'

Thus says the Lord God to Cyrus, My anointed, whose right hand I hold that nations might be obedient before him, and I will break the strength of kings: I will open doors before him, and the cities will not be closed. "I will go before you and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and shatter the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, and I shall open unseen secret things to you, so you may know I, the Lord God, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I will call you by your name; I will accept you, though you have not known Me. For I am the Lord God. There is no God besides

Me, and you have not known Me. I will call you by name and accept you, so those who come from the east and the west may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord God, and there is no other. I am He who prepared light and made darkness, who makes peace and creates troublesome things. I am the Lord God who does all these things. Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness

together. I am the Lord who created you.

“As the clay of a potter, what better thing have I created? Will the one plowing plow all day? Shall the clay say to the potter who forms it, ‘What are you making, for you neither work nor have hands?’ As though one should say to his father, ‘What will you beget?’ Or to his mother, ‘What will you bring forth?’ ”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 9:1-11

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

Wisdom built her house,  
And she supported it with seven pillars.

She offered her sacrifices;  
She mixed her wine in a bowl  
And prepared her table.  
She sent her servants,  
Inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying,

“He who is without discernment,  
Let him turn aside to me”;  
And to those in need of discernment, she says,

“Come, eat my bread  
And drink the wine I mixed for you;

Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live;

Seek discernment so you may live,  
And keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself,

And he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself.

Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you;

Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser;

Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the counsel of saints is understanding;

For to know the law is characteristic of a good mind.

For in this manner you will live a long time,

And the years of your life shall be increased.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 35:1-16

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

Elihu continued, saying:

“What is this you consider as judgment?

Who are you to say, ‘I am righteous before the Lord’?

Or will you say, ‘What did I do, if I have sinned?’

“I will answer you and your three friends.

Look up to heaven and see,

And observe the cloud as higher than you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

If you have acted very lawlessly, what can you do?

Since therefore you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what did He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness may affect a man such as you,

Or your righteousness a son of man.

“Those who are slandered by a multitude will cry out;

They will cry out for help because of the strength of the many.

But no one says, ‘Where is the God who made me,

Who appoints the night watches,

Who distinguishes me from the four-footed animals of the earth

And from the birds of heaven?’

There they will cry out, but no one answers,

Because of the insolence of evil men.

For the Lord does not desire to look on wrongdoing,

For He, the Almighty, is the observer

Of those who perform lawless deeds,

But He will save me.

Decide before Him if you can praise Him as it is now possible.

But now, He is not visiting His wrath,

Nor even taking notice of very much transgression;

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain;

In ignorance he burdens us with words.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Sirach 11:1-10

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

The wisdom of a humble man will exalt his head,

And he will take his seat among the great.

Do not praise a man for his good looks,

And do not detest one because of his appearance.

The bee is small among winged creatures,

But her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast about your fine clothes,

Nor magnify yourself in the day you are honored;

Because the works of the Lord are wondrous,

And His works are hidden from men.

Many tyrants have sat on the ground,

But one never thought of has worn a crown.

Many rulers have suffered exceeding disgrace,

And honored men have been betrayed into the hands of others.

Do not find fault before you examine a situation.

First, understand it, and then make your judgment.

Do not answer before you have listened,

And do not interrupt someone while he is talking.

Do not argue about a matter that does not concern you,

And do not sit together with sinners when they judge a case.

My son, do not let your business involve too many things.

If you multiply them, you will not remain unpunished,

And if you pursue them, you will not overtake them;

And you will not escape by running away.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 9:14

*A Psalm of David.*

Have mercy on me, O Lord;

see how my enemies have humiliated me,

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 20:9-19

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

He began to tell the people this parable. "A certain man planted a

vineyard and rented it out to some farmers, and went into another

country for a long time. At the proper season, he sent a servant to the farmers to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty. The owner then sent yet another servant, and they also beat him, treated him with contempt, and sent him away empty. The owner sent yet a third [servant], and they also wounded him, and threw him out. Then, the lord of the vineyard thought, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son! It may be that seeing him, they will respect him.'

But when the farmers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying: 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' So, they threw the son out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now,

what will the lord of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy these farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others."

When the people heard this, they exclaimed, "May it never be!" But Jesus looked at them, and said, "Then what is this that is written:

*'The stone which the builders rejected,*

*Has become the chief cornerstone?'*

*Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,*

*and it will crush to dust whoever it falls on.*

The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to lay hands on him that very hour, but they feared the people because they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **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 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.

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

## The Liturgy Gospel

Pslam 9:14c, 15ab

*A Psalm of David.*

O You Who lifts me from the gates of death,  
that I may proclaim all Your praises  
in the gates of daughter Zion.

*Alleluia.*

John 6:47-71

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who is believing in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life! Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, its purpose is that anyone may eat of it

and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, this one will live forever! Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."



At this, the Jews disputed with one another, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus therefore said to them, "Amen, amen, I tell you; unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!" He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Therefore, many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?"

But knowing in himself that his disciples grumbled at this, Jesus said to them, "Does this cause you to

stumble? What then if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were those who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him. He said, "For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father."

At this, many of his disciples went back and no longer walked with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life! We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus told them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And [yet] one of you is a devil!" Now, he was speaking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray him, and he was one of the Twelve. *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Friday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Genesis 22:1-18

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

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar

there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.

Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen."

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 45:11-17

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

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: "Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven and commanded all the stars. I raised him up to be a king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts," says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of

the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass over to you. They shall be your servants and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say, 'There is no God besides You. For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.' All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Proverbs 9:12-21

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

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths,

"He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me;

And he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying,

‘Grasp with pleasure the secret bread

And the sweet water of theft.’ ”

But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her,

And he happens upon a snare of Hades.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Job 36:1-32\*

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

Elihu also proceeded and said:

‘Wait for me yet a little while, that I may teach you,

For there is yet more for me to say.

I will gather my knowledge from afar

And truly speak of righteousness in my works.

You were not hearing unjust words without good reason.

“But know that the Lord who is mighty in strength of heart

Does not cast off an innocent man.

He will not give life to the ungodly,

But He will give judgment to the poor.

He will not turn away from the righteous,

But will seat them on the throne with kings;

For He will lift them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But if they are bound in fetters,

They shall be held in the cords of poverty.

He will tell them their works and their transgressions,

For such will act with violence.

He also will hear the righteous,

And He said they will turn from wrongdoing.

If they give ear and serve Him,

They shall spend their days in good things

And their years in dignity.

But He does not save the ungodly,

Because they are not willing to know the Lord,

And because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

“For the hypocrites in heart will marshal anger against themselves,

And they will not cry for help, because He has bound them.

Therefore, may their soul die in youth,

And their life be wounded by messengers of death,

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

And He will make manifest the judgment of the gentle.

“Besides, He deceived you by the mouth of the enemy.

There is an abyss and a pouring  
over beneath it,

And your table descended full of  
fatness.

Judgment shall not fail from the  
righteous,

But there shall be anger against  
the ungodly

Because of the ungodliness of the  
gifts they received for wrongdoings.

Let not your heart willingly turn  
you aside

From the petition of the weak  
who are in distress.

Do not lure away all the mighty  
men at night

So the people should go up in-  
stead of them.

“But guard yourself, lest you do  
what is wrong,

For you chose this because of  
poverty.

Behold, the Mighty One shall pre-  
vail by His strength.

Who is so powerful as He?

Who is he who examines His  
works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done  
unjustly’?

“Remember, His works are great,

Because of which men began to  
exist.

Everyone has seen for himself

How many mortals are wounded.

“Behold, the Mighty One is great,

And we do not know Him.

The number of His years is also  
endless.

For He numbers the drops of rain,  
And they shall be poured out in  
rain to form a cloud.

The ancient clouds shall drop  
down

And overshadow innumerable  
mortals.

He has fixed a time for cattle,

And they know the appointed  
time for their rest.

Yet your mind is not astonished  
by these things,

Nor does your heart leap out from  
your body.

For one should perceive the out-  
spreadings of a cloud

And the measure of His tabernac-  
le.

Behold, He stretches His bow  
against him

And covers the bottom of the sea.

For by these He will judge the  
peoples.

He will give food to him who has  
strength.

He has hidden light in His hands

And given orders to the cloud by  
which it is diverted.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

*\*Found in Kitchener and Ottawa, lacking in  
Southern United States.*

Job 37:1-24\*

*Again from the book of Job the Righteous. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

“At this also my heart was troubled and flows from its place.

Listen attentively to the thunder of the Lord’s wrath

And the discourse coming from His mouth.

His dominion is under the whole heaven

And His light to the ends of the earth.

Behind Him a voice will cry aloud.

He will thunder with His voice of outrage,

Yet He will not change them when His voice is heard.

The Mighty One will thunder marvelously with His voice,

For He does great things we cannot comprehend.

For He commands the snow, ‘Fall upon the earth,’

And likewise there is the winter,

The rain and the winter storms of His might.

He seals up the hand of every man

That everyone may know his weakness.

The wild animals go into their shelters

And are at rest in their lairs.

From the secret chambers comes the whirlwind,

And cold from the mountaintop.

By the breath of the Mighty One, He will send frost,

And He freezes the waters as He wishes.

And when the cloud obscures what He chooses,

His light will disperse the cloud.

He will swirl the encircling clouds by His governance

To perform all their works,

Moving them to do whatever He commands.

This has been appointed by Him on the earth,

Whether for correction or for His earth,

Or if He shall find him an object for mercy.

“Pay close attention to this, O Job.

Stand still and consider the power of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed His works,

Having made light out of darkness.

He knows the division of the clouds

And the violent falls of evil men.

But your robe is warm,

And there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish with Him the foundations

For the ancient heavens?

They are strong like a molten mirror.

“What is this to you? Teach me what we will say to Him,

And let us cease speaking many words.

Have I a book or scribe by me

That I may stand and put man to silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the ancient heavens,

As that which is from Him in the clouds.

From the north come the clouds, shining like gold;

In these great things are the glory and honor of the Almighty.

We do not find another like Him in His strength.

Do you not think He who judges righteously listens?

Therefore men shall fear Him,  
And the wise in heart shall fear Him.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

*\*Found in Ottawa and Kitchener, lacking in Southern United States.*

### Tobit 1:1-3:6

*From the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

This is the book of the words of Tobit, the son of Tobiel, the son of Hananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, from the tribe of Naphtali. He was led captive out of Thisbe in the days of Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians. Thisbe is south of Kedesh Naphtali, in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I did much almsgiving to my brethren and to the people who journeyed with me as exiles to Nineveh, in the country of the Assyrians. In my young days, when I was in my own country, the land of Israel, the entire tribe of my father Naphtali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to sacrifice for all the tribes. This temple, the habitation of the Most High God, was sanctified and built for all generations forever.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt sacrificed the heifer to Baal. The house of Naphtali, the tribe of my father, also revolted. But I alone traveled frequently to Jerusalem for the feast days, as it is written for all of Israel in an everlasting ordinance. I would carry the firstfruits and the tithes of my harvest and the first-shearing. These I would give to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I would offer the tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi who served at Jerusalem. I would also sell off the second tenth and go and spend it at Jerusalem each year. The third tenth I would give to whom it was fitting, as Deborah the mother of my father commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. When I became a man, I took Anna for a wife from my own kindred. With her I became the father of Tobias.

When I was taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those from my race ate from the bread of

the Gentiles. But I protected myself by not eating it. For I remembered God with all my soul. So the Most High gave me grace and comeliness before Shalmaneser, and I became his purchasing agent. I would go into Media. And one time in Rages of Media, I entrusted to Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, ten talents of silver.

When Shalmaneser died and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the roads were unstable and I could no longer travel to Media. In the days of Shalmaneser, I did much almsgiving to my brothers. I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked. If I saw anyone of my people dead, cast outside the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him. If King Sennacherib put someone to death when he came trying to escape from Judea, I buried them secretly. For in his anger, he put many to death, and the bodies were sought by the king; but they were not found. But one of the men of Nineveh went and made known to the king concerning my burying them. So I hid, and when I knew I was being sought to be put to death I was frightened and ran away. All of my possessions were seized and I had nothing left, except Anna my wife and Tobias my son.

But not even fifty days passed before two of King Sennacherib's sons had killed him and escaped into the mountains of Ararat. Thus Esarhaddon his son reigned in his

place. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Anael, to be over all the accounts of his kingdom and over the entire government. Ahikar then entreated on my behalf, so I came to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was the wine-pourer, the keeper of the signet ring, the administrator and the accountant. Esarhaddon appointed him second to himself, and he was my nephew.

When I arrived at my house, my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the Feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A good dinner was prepared for me, so I sat down at the table to eat. When I saw the abundance of meat, I said to my son, "Go and bring whomever you may find of our needy brethren who are mindful of the Lord. Behold, I will wait for you." But he came back and said, "O father, one of our people was strangled and thrown into the marketplace." So before I even tasted anything, I jumped up and carried the corpse into a room until sunset. Then I returned, bathed myself, and ate my bread in sorrow. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said,

"Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

And all your gladness into a song of grief."

So I wept. When the sun went down, I departed, and after digging a grave, I buried him. My neighbors laughed at me and said, "He is no longer afraid to be put to death for



doing such a thing. He ran away before, and now, behold, he is burying the dead again.”

On the same night that I buried him, I returned home. But since I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the courtyard with my face uncovered.

However, I did not see the sparrows on the wall, for while my eyes were open the sparrows discharged their droppings into my eyes, and they became white films in my eyes. I went to physicians, but they could not help me. Then Ahikar supported me until he left for Elymais.

Then my wife Anna worked for hire at what women do. She would send her work to the owners and they would pay her. On one occasion they paid her wages and also gave her a small goat. But when she returned to me, it began to bleat. So I said to her, “Where did this goat come from? Is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is unlawful to eat what is stolen.” But she replied, “It was given to me as a gift. It was in addition to my wages.” But I did not believe her, telling her to return it to its owners. I blushed in embarrassment for her sake. So she answered and said to me, “Are your acts of charity and righteous deeds lawful? Behold, you are a know-it-all!”

Then I wept in my sorrow, and with pain I prayed, saying:

“O Lord, You are righteous. So too are all Your works. All Your ways are mercy and truth. Your judgments are true and just forever. Remember me and look upon me with favor. Do not punish me for my sins and my ignorance, nor those sins of my fathers which they committed against You. Because they disobeyed Your commands, so You gave us as spoil, captivity and death. You made us a byword of disgrace among all the nations in which we were scattered. Now Your judgments concerning my sins are many and they are true, because I did them, and so did my fathers. For we did not keep Your commandments. Indeed we did not walk in truth before You. Now do with me as is best before You. Command that my spirit be taken up, so I may be released and become soil, since it is better for me to die than to live. For I have heard false insults, and there is much sorrow within me. Command that I be freed from distress to now enter into the eternal place. Do not turn Your face away from me.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Tobit 3:7-3:16

*Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

On the same day, in Ecbatana of Media, Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, happened to be insulted by her father's maids. She was married to seven husbands, but before they could be with her as a wife, Asmodeus, the evil demon, killed them. So they said to her, "Do you not recollect that you strangled these husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Therefore, why punish us? If they are dead, go with them. May we never see a son or daughter of yours."

When she heard this, she was so distressed that she considered hanging herself. But she said, "I am the only one of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades." So she prayed by her window and said:

"Blessed are You, O Lord my God. Blessed is Your holy and precious name unto the ages. May all Your works bless You forever. Now, O Lord, I offer myself completely to You. Command that I be released from the land, that I may not hear

such disgrace any more. O Lord, You know that I am innocent of any sin with a man. I have not defiled my name nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am my father's only offspring. He has no other child who will be his heir. Neither does he have a brother close at hand, nor an adopted son that I might keep myself as a wife to him. Seven of my husbands have already perished. What should I live for? But if it does not seem good to You to kill me, command that I be looked upon with favor, and that mercy be shown to me, so I may no longer hear disgrace."

The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the great glory of Raphael, and he was sent to heal the two of them: to remove the white films from Tobit; to give Sarah of Raguel to Tobias the son of Tobit as a wife; and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for it fell upon Tobias to inherit her. At that same time Tobit returned and entered his house, and Sarah of Raguel came down from her upstairs room.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Tobit 4:1-6:9

*Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

On that day Tobit remembered the silver he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said to himself, "I requested death for myself. Why do I not call my son

Tobias to make this known to him before I die?"

So he summoned him and said, "My son, if I die, bury me, but do not disregard your mother. Honor her all

the days of your life. Do what is pleasing to her, but do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she experienced many dangers for you while you were in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in the same grave. My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not desire to sin or to disobey His commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing. For if you walk in the truth, you will be successful in your works. Do almsgiving from your possessions to all who do righteousness. When you do almsgiving, do not let your eye be envious. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, so the face of God will not be turned away from you. Do almsgiving based on the quantity of your possessions. If you possess only a few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. You are storing up a good treasure for yourself in the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers us from death and prevents us from entering into the darkness. Indeed, almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

“My son, guard yourself from all fornication, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers. Do not take a foreign woman who is not from the tribe of your father, for we are sons of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers from of old. Remember, my

son, that all these took wives from among their brothers and were blessed in their children. Their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brothers and do not be arrogant in your heart against your brothers, the sons and daughters of your people. Take a wife for yourself from them, for arrogance brings destruction and great disorder, and in such worthlessness there is loss and great defect. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

“Do not keep overnight the wages of any man who works for you, but pay him immediately. If you serve God, He will pay you. Give heed to yourself, my son, in all your works, and be disciplined in all your conduct. What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine unto a state of drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness become your traveling companion. From your bread, give to him who is hungry, and from your clothing, give to the naked. If you have more than you need, do almsgiving, and do not let your eye envy the almsgiving when you do it. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but do not give it to sinners.

“Seek counsel from every sensible man, and do not treat any useful advice with contempt. At every opportunity bless the Lord God, but more than this ask that your ways may become straight, and that all your paths and purposes may prosper. For

not every nation has understanding. But the Lord Himself gives all that is good, and as He desires He humbles whomever He will. Now my son, let none of my commandments be removed from your heart.

“Now let me point out to you the ten talents of silver I entrusted to Gabael the son of Gabrias, in Rages of Media. Do not fear, my son, that we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God. Stay away from every sin, and do what is pleasing before Him.”

Tobias answered him and said, “O father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how will I be able to obtain the silver, for I do not know him?” Then he gave him the record of the debt and said to him, “Find for yourself a man who will travel with you, and I will pay him his wages as long as I remain alive. Now go and obtain the silver.”

Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel. But he did not know it. So Tobias said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages of Media? Are you acquainted with those places?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you. I am acquainted with the roadways and I have lodged with our brother Gabael.” Tobias said to him, “Wait for me and I will tell my father.” He said to him, “Do so, but do not delay.”

So he went to his father and said, “Behold, I have found someone who

will go with me.” But his father said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is trustworthy enough to go with you.” So he invited him, and Raphael came in. They greeted one another cordially.

Tobit then said to him, “Brother, to what tribe and kindred do you belong?” Raphael responded, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a hired man to go with your son?” Tobit replied, “Brother, I wish to know your people and your name.” Then he said, “I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the Great, one of your relatives.” So Tobit said to him, “You are most welcome, my brother. Do be not angry with me for seeking to learn of your tribe and your family. As it turns out, you are a brother of mine from a good and upright family. For I knew Ananias and Jonathan, the sons of Shemiah the Great, since we would journey in common to Jerusalem to worship and to offer the firstborn and the tenth of our harvest. They were not led astray in the deception of our brothers. My brother, you are from a good root.

“But tell me, what shall I give you as wages? A drachma a day and expenses for you and my son? I will even add more to your pay, if you both return in good health.” Thus they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobias, “Prepare for the journey, and may it be prosperous.” So his son prepared the things for the journey.

Then his father said to him, "Go with this man, and may the God who dwells in heaven prosper your journey. May His angel journey with you." They both departed, and the young man's dog went with them.

But Anna his mother wept and said to Tobit, "Why have you sent our son away, or is he not the staff of our hands when he goes in and out before us? Do not attain silver upon silver, but may it be dirt compared to our son. For as he was given to us to live by the Lord, this is sufficient for our existence." Tobit said to her, "My sister, do not be concerned. He shall return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey shall be prosperous. He will return in good health." So she ceased weeping.

They went on the journey and came to the Tigris River. So they spent the evening there. The young man went down to wash himself, and a fish jumped up from the river and

was determined to swallow the young man. The angel said to him, "Take hold of the fish." So the young man grabbed the fish and put it on the bank. Then the angel said to him, "Cut open the fish. Take the heart, the liver, and the gall and put them in a safe place." The young man did as the angel commanded him. Then they cooked the fish and ate it.

After this, they traveled together until they came near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, "Brother Azarias, what is the purpose of the liver, the heart, and the gall of the fish?" He replied, "If a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, the heart and the liver must be used to make smoke before the man or woman, and that person will never be troubled again. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man who has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed."

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Tobit 6:10-9:6

*Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

As they came near Rages, the angel said to the young man, "Brother, we will spend the night with Raguel. He is your relative and with him is his only child, a daughter named Sarah. I will speak for her that she might be given to you as a wife, because her inheritance belongs to you; for you

alone are from her people. The girl is beautiful and she is sensible.

"So now listen to me, for I will speak to her father. When we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding. For I know that Raguel cannot give her to any other man according to the rule of Moses, or he will be subject to death. Thus it is

proper that you receive the inheritance rather than another man.”

Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, I have heard the girl was given seven husbands, and they all perished in the bridal chamber. Now I am the only son of my father, and I fear for myself lest, entering the bridal chamber, I may die even as those before me. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone except those who approach her. Now I fear for myself lest I die and bring the life of my father and mother down into their tomb with grief and sorrow upon me. They have no other son who will bury them.”

But the angel said to him, “Do you not remember the words your father commanded you, to take a wife for yourself from among your people? Now listen to me, brother, for she will be a wife to you. As for the demon, have no concern, for this night she will be given to you as a wife. If you enter the bridal chamber, you will take with you ashes of incense, and lay some of it on the heart and liver of the fish. Then you will make smoke, and the demon will smell it and flee and never return. When you approach her, both of you will rise up and cry out to the merciful God. He will save you and be merciful. Do not fear for yourself, for she has been prepared for you from of old. You will save her and she will go

with you. I believe that you will have children by her.”

As Tobias heard these words, he loved her and his soul was very much united to her.

Then they went to Ecbatana and came to the house of Raguel. Sarah went ahead to meet them, and after they greeted one another, she escorted them into the house. Raguel said to Edna his wife, “How the young man resembles my cousin Tobit!” Then Raguel asked them, “Where are you from, brothers?” They answered, “We are from the sons of Naphtali who are captives in Nineveh.” Then he said to them, “Do you know Tobit our brother?” They responded, “We know him.” Then he asked, “Is he in good health?” They answered, “He is alive and in good health.” Tobias then added, “He is my father.”

Raguel jumped up and kissed him and wept. He blessed him and said to him, “You are the son of a good and noble man!” But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept. Edna his wife and Sarah his daughter also wept, and they received them eagerly. And they killed a ram from the sheep and set many dishes before them.

Then Tobias said to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak about what you said on the way, and let the matter be completed.” So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, “Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting for you to marry my

child. However, I must tell you the truth. I gave my daughter to seven men, and when they went in to her, they died during the night. But for now, be glad!" But Tobias said, "I will not eat anything until after you establish an agreement with me." So Raguel said, "Receive her according to the decree, for you are her relative and she is yours. The merciful God will prosper you in what is good."

So he called Sarah his daughter, and taking her by the hand, he gave her to be a wife for Tobias. Then he said, "Behold, receive her according to the decree of Moses, and bring her before your father." He then blessed them and summoned his wife Edna. She took a scroll and wrote out the agreement. They sealed it, and then they began to eat.

After this, Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, "Sister, prepare the other room and lead her into it." She did as he said and led her there. Then Sarah wept, but Edna understood the tears of her daughter and said to her, "Be courageous, my child. May the Lord of heaven and earth give you grace instead of this sorrow of yours. Be courageous, my daughter."

When they finished dining, they led Tobias to her. As he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon the embers of the incense and made smoke. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled to

the upper parts of Egypt, and there the angel bound him. While both were enclosed in the room, Tobias rose up from the bed and said, "Arise, sister, and let us pray that the Lord will have mercy upon us." So Tobias began to pray, saying:

"Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and blessed is Your holy and glorious name unto the ages. The heavens and all Your creatures bless You. You made Adam and gave him Eve as a helper, his wife as a support. From them the seed of mankind came to be. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Us make a helper for him like himself.' O Lord, I now take this my sister as my wife, not on account of fornication, but in truth. Command that she and I may have mercy, and in this grow old together."

And with him she said, "Amen." Then both fell asleep for the night.

But Raguel rose up and went outside and dug a grave, saying, "He, too, may have died." Raguel then went back into his house and said to his wife Edna, "Send one of the maids and let her see if indeed Tobias is alive. If he is not, let us bury him that no one may know." So the maid went to the door, and when she opened it she found both of them sleeping. She came out and told the two of them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying:

"Blessed are You, the God, with every pure and holy blessing. Your

holy ones and all Your creatures bless You. All Your angels and Your chosen ones bless You unto all the ages. Blessed are You, for You have made me glad, and it did not turn out for me as I suspected. Rather, You did with us according to Your abundant mercy. Blessed are You, for You had mercy on our two only children. O Lord, show them mercy, and complete their life in health and with gladness and mercy.”

Then he ordered his household servants to fill in the grave.

After this he provided a wedding feast for them lasting fourteen days. Before the time of the wedding feast was over, Raguel swore an oath and said to Tobias, “You are not to leave from here unless the two of you stay the fourteen days of the wedding feast. At that time take half of my

belongings and go in good health to your father. The remainder will be yours when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant and two camels with you and journey to Rages of Media. Find Gabael and bring the silver back to me and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn an oath for me not to go away. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay much longer he will be very distressed.” Then Raphael went and spent the night with Gabael, and gave him the handwritten receipt. So Gabael brought the small sealed bags and gave them to him. They both rose early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. Then Tobias blessed his wife.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Tobit 10:1-11:19

*Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Tobit his father was counting each day. But when the days needed to complete the journey ended and they had not returned, he asked, “Has he perhaps been dishonored? Or has Gabael died and no one gave him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife told him, “The young man has perished. That is why he is delayed.” Then she began to weep for him and said, “Nothing matters to me, my child, the light of my eyes, for I permitted you to go.” So Tobit said

to her, “Be silent and have no more thoughts about it. He is in good health.”

She replied to him, “You be quiet. Do not deceive me. My child has perished.” Then throughout the day she went outside to the road by which he departed, and during the day she did not eat bread. At night she did not cease lamenting for her son Tobias until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were over, the days Raguel swore him to celebrate there.



Then Tobias said to Raguel, "Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope they will see me." But his father-in-law said to him, "Stay with me, and I will send messengers to your father. They will make clear to him how you are doing." But Tobias said, "No indeed. On the contrary, send me back to my father."

Then Raguel arose and gave Sarah his wife to him, and half of his belongings in servants, cattle, and silver. Then he blessed them and sent them on their way, saying, "May the God of heaven prosper you, my children, before the day I die." To his daughter he said, "Honor your husband's mother and father, for they are now your parents. Let me hear a good report of you," and he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, "My beloved brother, may the Lord of heaven bring you back and grant me to see your children from my daughter Sarah, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Behold, I am entrusting my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her." With this, Tobias went on his way blessing God that He had prospered his journey. Then he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He traveled until they approached Nineveh. Here Raphael said to Tobias, "My brother, are you not aware of how you left your father? Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house. Take the gall of the fish in your hand." So they

proceeded, and the dog followed behind them.

Meanwhile Anna sat gazing upon the road for her boy. She perceived that he was coming and said to the father, "Behold, your son is coming, and the man traveling with him!"

Raphael said, "I know that the eyes of your father will open. Rub the gall on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you."

Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, "I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!" So they both wept. Then Tobit came out of the door. He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, "Father, take courage!" Then as his eyes stung, he rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, "Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son." His son went in rejoicing and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit rejoiced and blessed God as he went to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh. But those who saw him as he walked

along were amazed that he could see. Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. Then as Tobit drew near to meet Sarah, his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, "May you be in good health, my daughter! Blessed is God

who brought you to us, and blessed are your father and your mother."

So there was rejoicing among all his brethren in Nineveh. Even Ahikar and his nephew Nadab came, for the wedding feast for Tobias was kept with gladness for seven days.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Tobit 12:1-14:15

*Again from the book of Tobit. His blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Tobit summoned his son Tobias and said to him, "My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you, and we must add to them." He replied to him, "My father, it is no harm for me to give him half of what I brought. For he brought me safely to you, healed my wife, and brought me the silver. Likewise he healed you." The elderly man replied, "He more than earned it." So he called the angel and said to him, "Take half of everything you brought."

Then Raphael secretly called the two of them, and said to them, "Bless God and give Him thanks. Ascribe greatness to Him and give thanks in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt His name. Make known the words of God's works honorably and do not delay to give thanks to Him. It is noble to keep hidden the secret of a king, but glorious to unveil the works of God. Do good, and evil will not find you. Prayer is good with fasting, almsgiv-

ing, and righteousness. A few prayers with righteousness are better than many with wrongdoing. It is better to do almsgiving than to lay up gold. For almsgiving rescues one from death, and it will wash away every sin. Those who do almsgiving and are righteous will be full of life. But those who sin are enemies of their own life.

"I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I did say that it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayer before the Holy One. When you also buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. Then too, when you did not hesitate to stand up and leave your dinner so as to depart and care for the dead, your doing what is good did not escape me; but I was with you. Now God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who report the prayers of the saints and

who enter before the glory of the Holy One.”

The two of them were troubled and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid, for peace shall be with you. But bless God forever. For I did not come of my own good will, but rather by the will of our God. Therefore bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you I did not eat or drink; but you were seeing a vision. Now give thanks to God, because I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that was accomplished.”

Then they stood up, but no longer saw him. They acknowledged the great and wondrous works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit with exceeding joy wrote a prayer, saying:

“Blessed is God  
Who lives unto the ages,  
And blessed is His kingdom,  
For He scourges, and is merciful;  
He brings down into Hades,  
And leads up.

There is no one who will escape His hand.

Give thanks to Him before the nations,

O children of Israel,  
For He scattered us among them.  
Make known His greatness there;  
Exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

For He is our Lord and God;

He is our Father unto all the ages.

He will scourge us for our wrongdoings,

But He will again have mercy  
And gather us from all the nations,  
Wherever you were dispersed among them.

If you return to Him with all your heart

And with all your soul,  
To do the truth before Him,  
Then He will turn to you  
And not hide His presence from you.

Behold for yourself what He will do for you,

And give thanks to Him fully with the organ of speech.

Bless the Lord of righteousness,  
And exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity, I give thanks to Him,

And make known His might and majesty to a nation of sinners.

Be converted, you sinners,  
And do righteousness before Him.  
Who knows if He will desire you  
And have mercy on you?

I exalt my God,  
And my soul exalts the King of heaven

And will rejoice exceedingly in His majesty.

Let all speak of His majesty  
And give thanks to Him in Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,  
He will scourge you for the deeds of your sons,

But He will again show mercy to  
the sons of the righteous.

Give thanks to the Lord with  
goodness

And bless the King of the ages,  
That His tabernacle may be re-  
stored again to you in joy.

May He rejoice in you, the cap-  
tives,

And may He love those who are  
distressed among you

Unto all generations forever.

Many Gentiles will come from  
afar

To the name of the Lord God,  
Bearing gifts in their hands  
And offerings to the King of  
heaven.

Generations of generations will  
offer You joyful worship.

Cursed are all who hate You;

Blessed are all who love You for-  
ever.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad  
for the children of the righteous,

For they will be gathered together  
And will bless the Lord of the  
righteous.

Blessed are those who love You.

They will rejoice in Your peace.

Blessed are the many who grieved  
over all Your scourges,

For they will rejoice when they see  
all Your glory

And will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great  
King.

For Jerusalem will be built with  
sapphire and emerald,

And her walls with precious  
stones,

And her towers and battlements  
with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be  
paved

With beryl, onyx, and stones from  
Ophir.

All her streets will proclaim, 'Alle-  
luia!'

And will give praise, saying,

'Blessed is God, who exalted you  
unto all the ages.'"

Then Tobit ceased giving thanks.

He was fifty-eight years old when  
he lost his sight, and eight years later  
he regained it. Tobit did almsgiving,  
and continued to fear the Lord God,  
and gave thanks to Him. He grew  
very old, and called his son and his  
son's sons, and said, "My son, take  
your sons. Behold, I have grown old,  
and I am departing from this life.  
Depart to Media, my son, for I trust  
all the words Jonah the prophet spoke  
concerning Nineveh, that it will be  
overthrown. But in Media there will  
be more peace for a time. For our  
brethren in the land will be dispersed  
in the earth from the good land.  
Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the  
house of God therein will be burned  
up. It shall be desolate for a time.

"But God will again have mercy  
on them, and He will return them to  
the land. They will build the house,  
but not as it was before, until the  
times of the age are fulfilled. After  
this, they will return from the captiv-

ity and build Jerusalem honorably. The house of God within her will be built as a glorious building for every generation forever, as the prophets said concerning her. All the Gentiles shall return to truly fear the Lord God. They shall bury their idols in the earth, and all the Gentiles will bless the Lord. His people will offer thanks to God, and the Lord will exalt His people. All who love the Lord God in truth and righteousness will rejoice. They will show mercy to our brethren.

“So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since what the prophet Jonah said will doubtless come to pass. But keep the law and the ordinances. Be merciful and righteous, that it may be well with you. Bury me decently and your mother with me, but lodge no longer in Nineveh. My son, observe what Aman did to Ahikar who reared him, how he led him from light into darkness, and how greatly he repaid him. Indeed Ahikar was saved, but as for that man, he was repaid with

retribution and descended into the darkness. Manasseh did almsgiving and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap and perished. Now then, my children, observe what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers us.”

After he said these things, his soul departed as he lay on his bed. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and Tobias buried him gloriously. When Anna died, he buried her with his father. Then Tobias departed with his wife and his children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. He grew old honorably and buried the parents of his wife most respectfully. They inherited their estate and that of Tobit his father.

Tobias died at Ecbatana of Media when he was one hundred and twenty-seven years old. Before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, taken by Nebuchadnezzar and Ahasuerus. Thus before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 50:9, 10

*A Psalm of David.*

You will sprinkle me with hyssop,  
and I will be cleansed;  
You will wash me,  
and I will be whiter than snow.  
You will make me hear joy and gladness;  
my bones that were humbled will rejoice.

*Alleluia.*

John 3:14-21

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

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

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

## The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under the cloud: all passed through the sea; and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. However, God was not well pleased with most of them because they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things were written as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Do not become idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."a Let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day

twenty-three thousand fell! Let us not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and they perished by the poisonous snakes. Let us not grumble either, as some of them did, and they were killed by the destroying angel. Now, all these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, since the ends of the agesb have come on us. Therefore, let the one who thinks he is standing be careful not to fall.

No temptation has come to you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful: he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to resist, but with the temptation he will also create a way to escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

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

## **The 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 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.

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 John 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalm 33:6, 5a

*A Psalm of David.*

Come to Him and be enlightened,  
and your faces will never be ashamed.  
I sought the Lord and He heard me.  
*Alleluia.*



### John 3:1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?"

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

## Saturday of Fifth (Sixth) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 78:8bc, 9ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Let Your compassion overtake us quickly,  
for we have become very poor.  
Help us, O God, our Saviour,  
... for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 9:1-8

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

Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own city. Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!"

At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man blasphemes!"

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? Which is

easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or, 'Get up, and walk?' But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (then he said to the paralytic), "Get up, take up your mat, and go up to your house."

The man got up and departed to his house. But when the crowds saw this, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.  
*Glory be to God forever.*

### 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 31:1, 2a

*A Psalm of David.*

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

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not take into account.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 10:46-52

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

Then, they arrived in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving the city with his disciples and a great crowd, the son of Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, "Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus cried out even more, "You son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him."

They called the blind man and said to him, "Cheer up! Get up! He is calling you!"

Having thrown his cloak aside, he got up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man replied, "Rabboni, that I may see again!"

Jesus said to him, "Be on your way! Your faith has made you well."

Immediately, the man received his sight and followed him along the way.

*Glory be to God forever.*

# The Sixth Sunday of Great Lent

## The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 16:3, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

You tested my heart when You visited me in the night;  
You tried me by fire,  
and found nothing unjust in me.  
Restore my steps in Your paths,  
that my feet may not slip.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:22-35

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

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

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

there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. People will come from the east, west, north, and south, and they will have a place in the Kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!"

Jesus replied, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next

day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.’

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood

under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 25:2, 3

*A Psalm of David.*

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;  
test my heart and mind in fire.  
For Your mercy is before my eyes,  
and I delight in Your truth.  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 23:1-39

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

Jesus then spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses. Therefore, whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but do not imitate their works; for they preach and [yet] do not act accordingly. Indeed, they bind heavy burdens that are dreadful to bear and put them on people’s shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them. Instead, they do all their works be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad, they enlarge the fringes of their garments, and love the place of honor at feasts. They love the best seats in the synagogues, the

greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ by people. But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers. Call no man on the earth ‘your father,’ for one is your Father, he who is in heaven. And do not be called ‘teacher,’ for one is your teacher, the Christ. But the one who is the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretense you make

long prayers. Therefore, you will receive a greater condemnation.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the Kingdom of Heaven in the face of people and you yourselves do not enter! And those who would enter, you prevent from doing so. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when one is converted, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves.

Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, 'If someone swears by the sanctuary, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound.' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the sanctuary that sanctifies the gold? You say, 'If someone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if someone swears by the gift that is placed on it, he is bound?' You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who was living in it. Whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, but you have not fulfilled the truly significant matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You

are blind guides who filter out a fly and yet swallow a camel!

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

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside, they are full of dead bones and all [kinds of] impurity. Likewise, you also appear righteous to men in appearance, but inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

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



Zachariah son of Barachiah whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I tell you: all these things will come upon this generation.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I desired to gather your children, just as a hen

gathers her brood under her wings; but you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you in a desolate state. For I tell you, you will not see me from now on until [the day when] you are saying, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!’”  
*Glory be to God forever.*

## **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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalm 142:7abc, 1ab

*A Psalm of David.*

Hear me quickly, O Lord:  
my spirit has failed.  
Do not turn Your face from me,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
give ear to my supplication in Your truth.

*Alleluia.*

John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but [it was] in order that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do

the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva and anointed the blind man’s eyes with the mud. He then said to him,

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbors and those who saw that he had been blind before said, “Is this not the man who sat and begged?” Others were saying, “It is he!” Still others were saying, “He looks like him.”

The man said, “I am he!” Therefore, the people asked him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered, “A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.’ And so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they asked him, “Where is he?”

The man replied, “I do not know.”

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see!”

At this, some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was division among them. Therefore, they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

He said, “He is a prophet!”

The Jews did not believe [the report] about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of this man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, this person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age. Ask him!”

And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!”

At this, the man answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!”

Again, asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?”

Then they insulted him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that

God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

The man answered them, “How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

The man answered, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe!” and he worshiped Jesus.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see; and so that those who see may become blind.”

The Pharisees who were present heard these things, and they asked Jesus, “Are we also blind?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see!’ and therefore, your sin remains. *Glory be to God forever.*”

## Monday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 40:2

*A Psalm of David.*

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;  
the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

*Alleluia.*

Mark 8:22-26

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

When he arrived at Bethsaida, people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand

and brought him out of the village. He spit on his eyes, laid his hands on the man, and asked him if he saw anything.

The man looked up and said, “I see people! I see them like trees walking!”

Again, Jesus laid his hands on the man’s eyes who then looked [around] intently. His sight was then restored

and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not enter into the village and do not tell anyone in the village.” *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

### Proverbs 10:1-17

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

A wise son makes his father glad,  
But a son without discernment is a  
grief to his mother.

Treasures do not benefit lawless  
men,

But righteousness delivers from  
death.

The Lord will not let the soul of  
the righteous man starve,

But He overthrows the life of the  
ungodly.

Poverty humbles a man,

But the hands of courageous men  
enrich others.

A son who is instructed will be  
wise,

And he will use a man without  
discernment as a servant.

A son with understanding is kept  
safe from the heat,

But a lawless son is blasted by the  
wind at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is upon  
the head of a righteous man,

But untimely grief will cover the  
mouth of the ungodly.

The remembrance of the righteous  
is with eulogies,

But the name of an ungodly man  
is extinguished.

The wise man in heart will receive  
the commandments,

But the man unguarded in speech  
will be overthrown in his perverse-  
ness.

He who walks in sincerity walks  
confidently,

But he who perverts his ways will  
be known.

He who winks his eyes deceitfully  
gathers grief for men,

But he who reproves boldly is a  
peacemaker.

A fountain of life is in the hand of  
a righteous man,

But the mouth of an ungodly man  
will hide destruction.

Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all who are not  
lovers of strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from  
his lips

Beats a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will hide perception,

But the mouth of a rash man ap-  
proaches destruction.

The acquisition of riches is a fortified city,

But poverty is the destruction of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,

But the fruits of the ungodly produce sins.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 48:17-49:4

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

Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: "I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me."

Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob." If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall

flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. "There is no rejoicing," says the Lord, "for the ungodly."

"Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time," says the Lord. "He called My name from My mother's womb. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow and covered Me in His quiver. He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' Then I said, 'I have labored in vain and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.'"

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 38:1b-36

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

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying:

"Who is this who hides counsel from Me,

And holds words in his heart

And thinks to conceal them from Me?

Gird your waist like a man;

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know.

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened,

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the stars were made

And all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?

“I shut up the sea with doors

When it burst forth and issued from the womb.

I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in mist.

I fixed My limit for it and set bars and doors.

I said, “This far you may come, but no further,

And here your waves must stop.’

“Did I order the morning light in your time,

And did the morning star see its appointed place,

To lay hold of the ends of the earth

And to shake the ungodly out of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground and form a living creature,

And set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

Have you removed light from the ungodly

And crushed the arm of the arrogant?

“Have you come upon the fountain of the sea

And walked in the tracks of the deep?

Do the gates of death open to you for fear,

And did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven?

Tell Me now, what is the extent of it?

“In what kind of land does the light dwell,

And what kind is the place of darkness?

If you would bring Me to their boundaries,

And also if you understand their paths,

Then I know you were born at that time,

And the number of your years is great.

“Have you come upon the storehouses of snow?

Have you seen the storehouses of hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of your enemies,

For the day of wars and battles?

From where does the frost proceed?

From where does the south wind scatter over the earth?

“Who prepared a course for the violent rain

Or a path for the thunders?



Who causes it to rain on a land  
where there is no man,

Or an uninhabited wilderness,  
where there is not a man in it,

To satisfy the untrodden and un-  
inhabited land

And cause it to spring forth a crop  
of tender grass?

Who is the rain's father,

And who has begotten the drops  
of dew?

From whose womb comes the ice,

And who has given birth to the  
frost in heaven,

Which descends like flowing wa-  
ter?

Who made firm the face of the  
abyss?

"Do you understand the band of  
the Pleiades,

And have you opened the fence of  
Orion?

Will you open up Mazzaroth in its  
season,

And the evening star with his rays?

Will you guide them?

Do you know the movements of  
heaven

Or the events which take place  
together under heaven?

"Will you call a cloud with your  
voice,

And will it obey you with a violent  
shower of much rain?

Can you send out lightnings, and  
they shall go?

They shall say to you, 'What do  
you want?'

Who has given to women wisdom  
in weaving

Or knowledge of embroidery?

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 31:10, 11

*A Psalm of David.*

Many are the scourges of the sinner,

but mercy surrounds him who hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous ones,  
and glory, all you upright in heart.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 16:19-31

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

Now, there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame.'

But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things.

But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.'

He said, 'I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!'

But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.'" *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

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 consid-

ers 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:12, 13

*A Psalm of David.*

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
And I will glorify Your Name forever,  
for Your mercy towards me is great,  
and You have rescued my soul from the deepest Hades.  
*Alleluia.*

John 5:31-47

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

If I bear witness about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who bears witness to me, and I know that the testimony by which he bears witness about me is true. You have sent [messengers] to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things so that you may be saved. John was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, because the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, they bear witness about me, that the Father has sent me. The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. You have never heard his voice at any time, and you have never seen his outward appearance. You do not have

his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about

me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my

words?" *Glory be to God forever.*

## **Tuesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Proverbs 10:18-32

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

Instruction guards righteous ways  
of life,

But instruction incapable of criticism  
goes astray.

Righteous lips cover hatred,

But those who bring forth abuse  
are very lacking in discernment.

You will not escape sin by a multitude  
of words,

But you of discreet lips will be  
forbearing.

The tongue of a righteous man is  
silver tried in the fire,

But the heart of an ungodly man  
shall fail.

The lips of righteous men understand  
lofty things,

But men without discernment die  
in want.

The blessing of the Lord is upon  
the head of a righteous man;

It enriches him, and grief of heart  
will not be added to it.

A man without discernment does  
evil things with laughter,

But wisdom gives birth to discernment  
in a man.

The ungodly man is carried about  
in destruction,

But the desire of the righteous  
man is acceptable.

The ungodly man is destroyed by  
the passing storm,

But the righteous man turns aside  
and shall be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to  
the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is a lawless woman to the men  
who use her.

The fear of the Lord increases  
days,

But the years of the ungodly will  
be shortened.

Gladness continues for the righteous,  
eous,

But the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is the  
stronghold of a holy man,

But destruction is for those who  
work evil.

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit  
the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man  
distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous  
man utterly destroys.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## Isaias 49:6b-10

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

\*[Indeed He says, 'It is a great thing for You to be called My Servant, to establish the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the dispersion of Israel.]\* Behold, I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

Thus says the Lord, who delivers You, the God of Israel: "Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord's sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You." Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped

You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; saying to those in bonds, 'Go forth,' and to those in darkness, 'Reveal yourselves.' They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

\*[] *Lacking in Kitchener, found in Ottawa and Southern United States.*

## Job 38:37-39:30

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

Who can number the clouds by wisdom,

And who bowed heaven down to earth?

For it is spread like a cloud of dust,

And I have joined it together as one hewn stone to another.

"Will you hunt prey for the lions  
Or satisfy the lives of the serpents?

They fear in their dens,  
And live in the forests, and lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?  
For its young ones wander

And cry to the Lord in search of food.

"Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young,

And do you mark when the deer gives birth?

Do you number the full months of childbearing,

And have you relieved their pangs?

Have you reared their young without fear,

And have you sent away their pangs?

Their young ones will break forth;  
They will be multiplied with offspring;

They depart and do not return.

Who set the wild donkey free?

Who loosed his bonds?

I made the wilderness his dwelling

And the salt lands his house.

He scorns the great multitude of the city;

He does not heed the blame of the tax collector.

He will survey the mountains as his pasture,

And he seeks out every green thing.

Will the wild ox be willing to serve you?

Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind his yoke with ropes,

Or will he plow furrows for you in the field?

Do you trust him because his strength is great?

Or will you commit your works to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your seed

And gather it to your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's?

For the falcon leaves her eggs on the ground

And warms them in the dust.

She has forgotten that a foot will scatter them,

Or that wild animals will trample them.

She hardens herself against her young ones

As though they were not hers.

She labors in vain without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom

And did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high,

She scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with a mane?

Have you put on him a suit of armor

And made his breast glorious with courage?

He paws exultingly in the valley

And goes forth with strength into the plain.

He mocks at battle when he sees it,

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against him,

And his rage would destroy the earth.

He will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

For at the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Good! Well done!'



He smells the battle from afar  
with its leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk remain steady by  
your understanding,

And spread its rigid wings looking  
toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your  
command,

And the vulture remain sitting  
over its nest

On the crag of a hidden rock?

From there it spies out the prey;

Its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones roll themselves in  
blood;

And where the slain are, immedi-  
ately they are found.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

### Sirach 5:1-15

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

Do not set your heart on your  
possessions,

And do not say, “I am independ-  
ent.”

Do not follow yourself and your  
strength

So as to walk in the desires of your  
heart;

And do not say, “Who will be lord  
over me?”

For the Lord will surely punish  
you.

Do not say, “I sinned, so what  
happened to me?”

For the Lord is patient.

Do not be so confident of atone-  
ment

That you add sin to sin;

And do not say, “His compassion  
is great;

He will atone for the multitude of  
my sins,”

For both mercy and wrath come  
from Him;

And His anger rests on sinners.

Do not delay to turn to the Lord,

And do not put it off from day to  
day;

For suddenly the wrath of the  
Lord will come forth,

And in the day of vengeance, you  
will perish.

Do not set your heart on dishon-  
est wealth,

For it will profit you nothing in  
the day of distress.

Do not winnow with every wind

And do not follow every road;

For a double-tongued sinner is of  
such a kind.

Be established in your understand-  
ing

And let your word be consistent.

Be quick to listen

And give your answer with pa-  
tience.

If you have understanding, answer  
your neighbor,

But if not, let your hand be over  
your mouth.

There is glory and dishonor in speech,

And a man's tongue may cause him to fall.

Do not be called a slanderer,

And do not lie in ambush with your tongue;

For shame awaits a thief,  
And a grievous condemnation will come upon

A double-tongued man.

In a great or in a small matter, do not go wrong.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 37:19, 20a

*A Psalm of David.*

For I confess my iniquity,

and I am anxious about my sin.

But my enemies live, and are stronger than I.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 17:1-10

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

Jesus told the disciples, "It is impossible that no occasions of stumbling should come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for such a person to have a millstone hung around the neck and be thrown into the sea, rather than to cause any of these little ones to stumble. Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: 'I repent!' you must forgive him."

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

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

But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or shepherding, that will say when that servant returns from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at the table.' Instead, will you not tell him, 'Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me while I eat and drink. Afterwards, you may eat and drink'? Does the master thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not! So you also,

when you have done all those things which you are commanded [to do], say, ‘We are unworthy servants, we

have [only] done our duty!’” *Glory be to God forever.*

## The Pauline Epistle

### 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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 50:4, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin,  
for I know my iniquity,  
and my sin is ever before me.

*Alleluia.*

John 12:36b-43

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

After Jesus had said this, he left and hid from them. But even though he had performed so many signs in front of them, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaias the prophet:

*Lord, who has believed our report?*

*To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

For this reason, they could not believe, for Isaias said elsewhere:

*He has blinded their eyes and he  
hardened their heart,  
lest they should see with their eyes,  
and perceive with their heart,  
and would turn,  
and I would heal them.*

Isaias said these things when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Still, even many among the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it [openly], so that they would not be put out of the

synagogue, for they loved human  
praise more than God's praise. *Glory be*

*to God forever.*

## Wednesday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

Proverbs 10:32-11:11

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

The mouth of a righteous man  
distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous  
man utterly destroys.

The lips of righteous men distill  
grace,

But the mouth of the ungodly is  
perverse.

Deceitful scales are an abomina-  
tion before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is accepta-  
ble to Him.

Wherever arrogance enters, there  
also is dishonor,

But the mouth of the humble  
meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he  
leaves regret,

But the destruction of the ungodly  
is immediate and brings joy.

Righteousness cuts straight and  
blameless paths,

But ungodliness embraces wrong-  
doing.

The righteousness of upright men  
delivers them,

But lawless men are taken to their  
destruction.

When a righteous man dies, his  
hope does not perish,

But the boast of the ungodly per-  
ishes.

A righteous man escapes from a  
snare,

But the ungodly man is handed  
over in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the  
mouth of the ungodly,

But the perception of the right-  
eous is prosperous.

A city stays upright in the good  
things of the righteous,

But it is razed to the ground by  
the mouths of the ungodly.

A man in need of discernment  
treats citizens with contempt,

But a man of discernment keeps  
quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals  
deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit con-  
ceals matters.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 58:1-11a

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

“Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’ Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast,” says the Lord; “rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent

dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, ‘Behold, I am here.’ If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. Your bones shall be enriched, and you shall be like a well-watered garden and like a spring of water that does not fail.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Job 40:1-41:26

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

Moreover the Lord God answered Job and said:

“Will anyone pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

He who rebukes God will answer for it.”

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“Why am I still judged and admonished,

Even if I rebuke the Lord, hear such things, and am nothing?

But what answer will I give to these things?

I will put my hand over my mouth.

I have spoken once.

I will not do so a second time.”

The Lord yet answered Job out of the cloud and said:

“No rather, gird up your waist like a man,

For I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Do you not reject My judgment?

Do you think I have dealt with you in any other way

Than might appear to you to be righteous?

Have you an arm like the Lord’s?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now majesty and power,

And clothe yourself with glory and honor.

Send forth messengers with wrath

And humble every insolent man.

Extinguish the arrogant man

And consume at once the ungodly.

Hide them together in the earth

And fill their faces with disgrace.

Then I will also admit

That your own right hand can save you.

“But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

Behold now, his strength is in his loins,

And his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;

His nerves are tightly knit.

His ribs are like ribs of bronze,

And his backbone like bars of iron.

This is the ruler of the Lord’s creation,

Made to be mocked at by His angels.

When he goes up to a rough mountain,

He causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

1He lies under trees of every kind,

Alongside the papyrus, and reed, and bulrush.

The great trees shade him with their branches;

So do the branches of the willow.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

He is confident, though the Jordan beats against his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes,

Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Will you catch the serpent with a hook

And put a halter about his nose?



Or will you fasten a ring in his nose

Or pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he speak to you in prayer,

Softly with the voice of a suppliant?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird,

Or will you cage him as a sparrow for a child?

Do the nations feed upon him?

Will they apportion him among the nations of the Phoenicians?

All the ships come together would not be able

To bear the mere skin of his tail,

Or carry his head with fishing vessels.

Once you lay your hand on him,  
Remembering the battle waged by his mouth,

Let it not be done again.

“Have you not seen him?

Have you not wondered at what has been said of him?

Do you not fear because I am prepared?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me and endure,

Since everything under heaven is Mine?

“I will not be silent because of him,

Though because of his power, one shall pity his antagonist.

Who will remove his outer coat?

Who may enter within the fold of his breastplate?

Who will open the doors of his face,

With his terrible teeth all around?

His entrails are as brazen plates,

And the texture of his skin as a symrite stone.

One part clings to another

So no air comes between them.

A man will be joined to his brother.

They stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light,

And his eyes are like the appearance of the morning star.

Out of his mouth go burning lights;

Sparks of fire shoot out.

Smoke goes out of his nostrils

As from a boiling pot with fire of coals.

His breath kindles coals,

And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Strength dwells in his neck,

And destruction runs before him.

The muscles of his body are joined together.

They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone,

And it stands like an unyielding anvil.

When he turns, he is a terror

To the four-footed wild animals  
which leap upon the earth.

Though the sword reaches him, it  
cannot avail;

Nor does spear or javelin.

He regards iron as straw,

And bronze as rotten wood.

The arrow cannot wound him;

The sling-stone becomes like grass  
to him.

Hammers are regarded as straw,

And he laughs at the threat of  
javelins.

His bed is like sharp skewers,

And all the gold of the sea under  
him

Is like a great amount of clay.

He makes the deep boil like a bra-  
zen pot,

And he regards the sea like a pot  
of ointment.

The lowest part of the deep is as a  
captive.

He reckons the deep as his walk-  
ing range.

On earth there is nothing like him,  
Who was made to be mocked at  
by My angels.

He beholds every high thing;

He is king over all that are in the  
waters.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 56:2

*A Psalm of David.*

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,

for my soul trusts in You;

and I will hope in the shadow of Your wings

until iniquity passes away.

*Alleluia.*

Luke 14:28-35

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

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees would begin to mock him, saying:

“This man began to build and he was not able to finish!” Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand [troops] to meet the one who comes against him with twenty

thousand [troops]? If he cannot, while the other [king] is still far away, he sends an embassy and asks for the conditions of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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

## **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.*

## The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 50:4, 5

*A Psalm of David.*

[You will] wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin,  
for I know my iniquity,  
and my sin is ever before me.

*Alleluia.*

## John 6:35-45

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

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

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

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

## Thursday of Sixth (Seventh) Week of Great Lent

### The Morning or Prime Prophecies

#### Proverbs 11:11-26

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

A double-tongued man reveals  
deliberations heard in council,

But a man faithful in spirit con-  
ceals matters.

Those for whom there is no lead-  
ership fall like leaves,

But there is salvation in much  
counsel.

A wicked man does evil whenever  
he meets a righteous man,

And he hates the sound of stabil-  
ity.

A thankful woman raises up glory  
to her husband,

But a throne of dishonor is a  
woman who hates righteousness.

Lazy men are in need of wealth,

But courageous men support  
themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his  
soul,

But an unmerciful man utterly  
destroys his body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous  
works,

But the seed of the righteous is a  
reward of truth.

A righteous son is begotten unto  
life,

But the persecution of an ungodly  
man is unto death.

Perverse ways are an abomination  
to the Lord,

But all who are blameless in their  
ways are acceptable to Him.

He who joins hands with the un-  
righteous will not go unpunished,

But he who sows righteousness  
will receive a faithful reward.

Like a ring in the nose of a wild  
swine,

So is beauty to an evil-minded  
woman.

Every desire of the righteous is  
good,

But the hope of the ungodly is  
destruction.

There are those who sow their  
own things and produce more things,

And there are those who gather  
but have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

But an angry man is not graceful.

May the one who hoards grain  
leave it to the nations,

But may blessing be upon the  
head of the one who shares it.

He who plans good things seeks  
good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will cap-  
ture him.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 65:8-16a

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

Thus says the Lord: "As the grape  
shall be found in a cluster, and they  
shall say, 'Do not destroy it, for there  
is a blessing from the Lord in it,' so  
shall I do for the sake of him who  
serves Me. For his sake I will not  
destroy them all. I will bring forth the  
seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah,  
and they shall inherit My holy  
mountain. My elect shall inherit it,

and My servants shall dwell there.  
There shall be in the forest a fold of  
flocks, and the valley of Achor shall  
be for the resting place of herds for  
My people who sought Me. But you  
are those who forsook Me, and forget  
My holy mountain, and prepare a  
table for the devil, and fill a drink-  
offering to Fortune. I will deliver you  
to the sword, and all of you shall fall

in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed.”

Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in

gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 42:1-6

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

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know You can do all things,  
And nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he who hides counsel from You?

Who keeps back his words  
And thinks to hide them from You?

Who will tell me what I knew not,

Things too great and wonderful,  
which I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

I will ask You, and please teach Me.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I deprecate myself, and I waste away.

I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### 4 Kings 6:8-7:20 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

*From the Fourth book of Kings. Its blessing be upon us. Amen.*

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I shall encamp in this specific place.” Then Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, saying, “Be careful not to pass this place, for the Syrians are hidden

there.” In response, the king of Israel sent someone to this place which Elisha warned about, and thereby kept careful watch over the Syrians on more than two occasions. As a result, the king of Syria became troubled as to what was happening. He called his

officers and said to them, "Will you not tell me who gives advance warning of our movements to the king of Israel?" And one of his officers said, "No one, O lord my king. It is Elisha the prophet in Israel that tells the words you speak in your bedroom to the king of Israel." So he said, "Go, see where this man is, and I will send and kidnap him."

They sent word to him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." So he sent horses and chariots and a great army that arrived at night to surround the city. When Elisha's servant arose early and went out, the army was there, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "O master, what shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are greater in number than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he was now able to see, and he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then the Syrians marched toward him, and Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike these people with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. So Elisha said to them, "This is not the city nor is this the way to it. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you seek." But he led them away to Samaria. So it came to be when

they arrived in Samaria, Elisha said, "Lord, open their eyes and let them see." Thus the Lord completely restored their ability to see. And behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "O father, shall I not strike to kill them?" But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you took captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their lord." Then he prepared a great feast for them, and after they ate and drank, he dismissed them and they departed to their lord. So lightly armed raiding parties of Syrians no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it came to pass that after this, the son of Hadad king of Syria gathered all the troops of his army and went up and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed they besieged it even to the point where the value placed on the head of a donkey was fifty shekels of silver, and two quarts of dove droppings cost five shekels of silver. As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Save me, my lord, O king!" And he said, "If the Lord does not save you from the threshing floor or from the winepress, how can I save you?" Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she



answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give us your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I told her, 'Give me your son so that we may eat him,' but she hid her son."

Now when the king heard the woman's words, he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw that underneath his clothes he wore sackcloth on his body. Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha remains on him today."

Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him, when the king sent a man ahead of him. But before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see that this son of a murderer was sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and keep him on the outside of the door. Is that not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" While yet talking with them, behold the messenger came down towards him; and the king said, "Listen! This evil is of the Lord, so why should I remain patient in the Lord?"

Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'About this time tomorrow, at the gate of Samaria a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and for a shekel, two measures of barley.' " So the officer on whose hand the king

relied retorted to Elisha and said, "Look, even if the Lord in heaven will make a downpour of rain, this event shall not happen." And Elisha said, "Behold, you shall see this with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

Now at the entrance of the gate there were four leprous men. And one of them said to his neighbor, "Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, 'Let us go into the city,' and there is famine in the city, we will die there. And if we sit here in this place, then we will die. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall die." So they rose in the darkness to head to the army camp of the Syrians. They entered the outskirts of the army camp and no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, the noises of a very great army. For the Lord made the army of Syria say to one another, "Look, the king of Israel hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" So they arose in the darkness and quietly fled for their lives, leaving their tents, their horses, and their donkeys at the campsite.

And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried away from it silver and gold and clothing. Then they left and came back to enter another tent to take

from there and to hide the spoils. And one said to the others, "This is not right. This day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent and wait until the light of morning, we will find wickedness in the city. Now come here! Let us enter the city and deliver this good news to the house of the king." So they went and cried out with a loud voice toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, "We entered the army camp of Syria and behold, no one was there, not a man nor a human voice. The only things there were the tied-up horses and donkeys, and their tents, which they left intact."

Then the gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the house of the king inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "Now I will inform you as to what the Syrians are doing. They know we are hungry. Therefore they went out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive and capture the city.'"

Then one of his servants answered and said, "Indeed! Let them now take five of the remaining horses, of all that remain of the multitude of Israel, and send them there to see." Therefore they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent them after the king

of Syria, saying, "Go and see." And they went after them even to the Jordan. Indeed all along the way, the road was full of garments and vessels which the Syrians themselves cast away in the panic. So the messengers returned and brought word to the king. Then the people went out and plundered the army camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, true to the word of the Lord.

Now the king had appointed the officer, the one on whose hand the king relied, to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God said who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha said to the king, saying, "Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria." Then the officer had answered Elisha with this retort, "Look, even if the Lord in heaven should make a downpour of rain, this sort of thing would never happen." Then Elisha had answered, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." And so it was in this way; for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 62:2

*A Psalm of David.*

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You;  
My soul thirsts for You...  
[that my flesh might blossom for You]  
in a desolate, trackless and waterless land?  
*Alleluia.*

Matthew 20:20-28

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

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking a certain thing of him. He said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Command that these, my two sons, may sit, one on your right hand, and one on your left hand, in your Kingdom."

But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to him, "We are able!"

Jesus answered, "You will indeed drink my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with, but to sit on my right and on left

hand is not mine to give! It is [reserved] for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard [about] this, they were upset with the two brothers.

However, Jesus called them together, and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and great ones make their authority felt. But it shall not be so among you! Instead, whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your servant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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, 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 prisoner 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 Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 121:1, 2

*A Psalm of David.*

I was glad when they said to me,  
"we will go to the house of the Lord."  
Our feet stood  
in your courts, O Jerusalem.  
*Alleluia.*

Mark 12:18-27

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

Then Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to him. They asked him, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us, 'If a man's brother dies, leaving a wife behind him but no children, his brother should take his wife, and raise up an offspring for his brother.' There were seven brothers. The first took a wife, died, and left no offspring. The second [brother] took her and [also] died, leaving no

children behind him. The third likewise; and so the seven [brothers] married her and left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For the seven [brothers] had her as a wife."

Jesus answered them, "Is this not why you are mistaken, by not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God? For when people {will} rise

from the dead, they do not marry or are given in marriage; instead, they are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead are raised, have not you read in the book of Moses (in the passage about the Bush), how

God spoke to him, saying: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living! This is why you are greatly misled." *Glory be to God forever.*

## **The Last Friday of Great Lent**

### **The Morning or Prime Prophecies**

Genesis 49:33-50:26

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

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Now Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.' " Then Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the

cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph's brothers saw their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him." So they came to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' " Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

So Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me;

but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households." Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart.

So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, "I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Proverbs 11:26-12:24

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

He who plans good things seeks good grace,

But he who seeks evil, it will capture him.

He who trusts in riches, this man will fall,

But he who helps the righteous, this man will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

And a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment.

A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness,



But the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time.

If the righteous man is scarcely saved,

Then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

But he who hates correction is without discernment.

He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better,

But a lawless man will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by lawlessness,

But the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are judgments,

But the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are deceitful,

But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

If he does not turn, an ungodly man is destroyed,

But the houses of the righteous remain.

The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man,

But the slothful of heart are treated with contempt.

It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself

Than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

But the affections of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread,

But those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time

Shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

But the roots of the godly are in strongholds.

By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares,

But a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will show mercy,

But he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things,

And the recompense of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes,

But a wise man hearkens to counsels.

A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath,

But an astute man hides his own dishonor.

A righteous man declares his honesty openly,

But the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful.

There are those who wound with a sword as they speak,

But the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

But a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue.

There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things,

But those who counsel peace shall be glad.

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Isaias 66:10-24

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

“Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders and comforted on knees. Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord’s hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient.

For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger and His renunciation with a flame of fire. For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. “Those who purify and cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time,” says the Lord; “and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have

not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades, to the holy city of Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites,” says the Lord. “For just as the new heaven

and the new earth which I make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your seed and your name remain. It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem,” says the Lord. “They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh.”

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

#### Job 42:7-17

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

So it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “You have sinned, you and your two friends, for you have not spoken before Me what is true, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you. For I will only accept him, but for his sake, I would have destroyed you; because you have not spoken what is true regarding my servant Job.” So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and He redeemed their sin for Job’s sake.

Then the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends, and He forgave their sin. But the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then all his brothers and all his sisters heard about everything that happened to him, and they came to him. So did all who knew him from the first. They ate food and drank with him and comforted him; and they wondered at all the Lord brought upon him. Each one gave him a lamb and four drachms’ weight of uncoined gold.

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first,

Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia's Horn. In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and

seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

## **The Morning or Prime Gospel**

Psalm 97:4, 5, 6a

*A Psalm of David.*

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing and rejoice, and sing psalms.  
Make music to the Lord with a lyre,  
with a lyre and the tune of a psalm.  
With metal trumpets and the trumpet of the horn.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 17:20-37

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

Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them, "The Kingdom of God does not come with observation! Neither will people say, 'Look, here!' or, 'Look, there!' for behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst."

Jesus told the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. People will tell you, 'Look, here!' or 'Look, there!' Do not go away or follow [them], for as the lightning flashes and lights up the

sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first, he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People ate, drank, got married, were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered into the ship; and the flood came, destroying them all. Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot: people ate, drank, bought, sold, planted and built. But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from

the sky which destroyed them all. It will be the same in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, whoever is on the housetop, [having] his goods in the house, should not go down to take them away! Likewise, whoever is in the field should not return. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you that in that night, there will be two people in one bed.

One will be taken, and the other will be left. There will be two grinding grain together. One will be taken, and the other will be left." Two will be in the field: one will be taken, and the other left.

In reply, the disciples asked him, "Where, Lord?"

He said to them, "Where the body is, there the eagles will also be assembled." *Glory be to God forever.*

## 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.*

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalm 97:8b, 9

*A Psalm of David.*

The mountains will rejoice [before the Lord];  
for He comes to judge the earth;  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with uprightness.  
*Alleluia.*

Luke 13:31-35

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

On that same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Leave this place and go somewhere else, for Herod wants to kill you!"

Jesus replied, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I fulfill my end. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [you] that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate! I tell you, you will not see me, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!'" *Glory be to God forever.*



