

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 Jonas the son of Amathi, saying, "Arise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of its wickedness has come up to me." But Jonas rose up to flee to Tharsis from the presence of the Lord. So he went

down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tharsis, and he paid his fare, and went on board to sail with them to Tharsis, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a wind on the sea, and there was a great storm

on the sea, 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, to be lightened of it. But Jonas had gone below into the hold of the ship, and was asleep, and snoring. And the captain came to him, and said to him, "Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that God may deliver us, so we do not perish."

And each man said to his neighbour, "Come, let us cast lots and find out for on whose account this calamity is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonas. And they said to him, "Tell us, why is this calamity upon us? What is your occupation? And 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 feared greatly, and said to him, "What is this *that* you have done?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

And they said to him, "What should we do to you, so that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonas said to them, "Pick me up, and throw me into the sea, and the sea will become calm to you, for I know that this great tempest is upon you because of me." And the men tried hard to return to land, and were not able, for the sea rose and grew even more tempestuous against them. And they cried out to the Lord, and said, "No way, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, and do not bring righteous blood upon us, for You, O Lord, have done as You have willed." So they took Jonas, and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord very greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and vowed vows. Now the Lord had commanded a great sea creature to swallow Jonas, and Jonas 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 Jonas prayed to the Lord, his God, out of the belly of the sea creature, and said,

“I cried out to the Lord my God in my affliction,  
and he heard me,  
my cry, out of the belly of Hades,  
You heard my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,  
and the floods surrounded me;  
all Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

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

Will I again look toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me as far as my life;

the deepest abyss surrounded me,

my head sank into the crevices of the mountains;

I descended into the earth,  
whose bars are everlasting barriers;  
yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord my God.

When my life was failing me, I remembered the Lord;

so may my prayer come to You, into Your holy temple.

They that follow vanities and lies have forsaken their own mercy.

But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of praise and confession;

all that I have vowed I will offer to You, the Lord of *my* deliverance.”

And the sea creature was commanded by the Lord, and it cast Jonas out upon 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

Psalms 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.*

And the word of the Lord came to Jonas a second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it according to the message which I previously spoke to you.” And Jonas arose, and went to Nineveh, as the Lord had said. Now Nineveh was a very great city to God, of about three days’ journey. And Jonas began to enter into the city, going about a day’s journey, and he proclaimed and said, “Three more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown!”

And the men of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. And the

word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And proclamation was made, and it was commanded in Nineveh by the king and his nobles, saying, “Let not men, cattle, oxen, and sheep, taste *anything*, or feed, or drink water.” So men and cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried fervently to God; and they each turned from their evil ways, and from the iniquity of their hands, saying, “Who knows if God will repent, and turn from his fierce anger, and we will not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God

repented of the evil which He had said He would do to them; and He did not do *it*.

But Jonas was very deeply grieved, and he was confounded. So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? That is why I saw the need to fled to Tharsis; because I knew that You are merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and abundant in mercy, and willing to repent at calamities. And now, O Sovereign, Lord, take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live."

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

But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and it withered up. And it happened, at the rising of the sun, that God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonas, and he became disheartened, and despaired of his life, and said, "*It is* better for me to die than to live."

And God said to Jonas, "Are you very much grieved over the gourd?" And he said, "I am very much grieved, even to death." And the Lord said, "You had consideration for the gourd, for which you had not suffered, and had not made to grow, which came up during the night, and perished before *the next* night, but shall not I spare Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand human beings, who do not know their right hand from their left hand; and much 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

Psalms 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, 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. 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 tempta-  
tion, 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.*

And in those days after a length of time, the king of Egypt died, and the children of Israel groaned because of their tasks, and cried out, and their cry rose up to God because of their tasks. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraam, and Isaac, and Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and became known to them.

And Moses was tending the flock of Jothor, his father-in-law, the priest of Madian; and he led the sheep near to the desert, and came to the mount of Choreb. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in flaming fire

in the midst of the bush, and he saw that the bush burning with fire—but the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed."

Now when the Lord saw him turn aside to look, the Lord called him from the midst of the bush, saying, "Moses! Moses!" And he said, "What is it?" And he said, "Do not come near here. Take your sandals off of 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 heaven, and listen, O earth, for the Lord has spoken:

"I have begotten and brought up children,

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 have not understood me."

Ah sinful nation,  
a people full of sins,  
an evil offspring,  
lawless children,  
you have forsaken the Lord,  
and provoked the Holy One of  
Israel to anger!

Why should you be beaten *any-*  
more

as you continue in lawlessness?

the whole head is pained,  
and the whole heart sad.  
From the feet to the head,  
there is no soundness in them;  
sores, and bruises, and festering  
wounds,  
there is no bandage to apply,  
nor oil, nor salve.

Your land is desolate;  
your cities are burned with fire;  
strangers devour your land in  
your presence,  
and it is made desolate,  
overthrown by foreign peoples.  
The daughter of Zion will be for-  
saken  
like a tent in a vineyard,  
like a garden-watcher's hut in a  
cucumber field,  
like a besieged city.  
And if the Lord of Hosts  
had not left us offspring,  
we would have become like Sod-  
om,  
and been made like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
You rulers of Sodom!  
Pay attention to the law of God,  
you people of Gomorra!  
“What is the multitude of your  
sacrifices to Me?”  
says the Lord;  
“I am full of whole burnt offerings  
of rams,  
and I do not want the fat of  
lambs,  
or the blood of bulls and goats.

not even when you come to ap-  
pear before me.

For who required these things at  
your hands?

You will tread in my court no  
more.

If you bring fine flour, *it is* futile;  
incense is an abomination to me.

I cannot bear your new moons,  
and your sabbaths,  
and the great day. My soul hates  
fasting, and holy days,  
as well as your new moons, and  
your feasts.

You have become loathsome to  
Me;

I will no longer forgive your sins.

When you stretch out your hands  
to Me,

I will turn My eyes away from you,  
even if you make many petitions,  
I will not listen to you,  
for your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; become clean;  
remove your evil deeds from your  
souls

before My eyes;  
cease from your evil deeds;  
learn to do good;  
seek judgement;  
redeem the wronged;  
defend for the orphan,  
and obtain justice for the widow.

Come, let us reason together,”  
says the Lord:

“although your sins are like crim-  
son,

I will make them white like snow,

and although they are like scarlet,  
I will 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 judgment of God if you judge those who practice such things and yet does the same? Or do you despise the riches of God's goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He "will pay back to everyone according to their works;" eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

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



## The Catholic Epistle

James 2:1-13

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

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality. For if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, "Sit here in a good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there," or "Sit by my footstool!" Have not you shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you

are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not commit murder." Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

## The Praxis

Acts 14:19-28

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

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking

that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

They passed through Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. After preaching

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

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

## **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 listen to me,

you will eat the good things of the land.

But if you are not willing, and do not listen to me,

a sword will devour you,”

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things.

How has the faithful city Zion  
has become a prostitute!

*It was once* full of justice;  
he righteous lodged in it,  
but now murderers do!

Your silver is worthless;

your taverns mix the wine with water.

Your rulers are disobedient,  
they are companions of thieves,  
loving bribes,  
and seeking after rewards;  
they do not defend orphans,  
or pay attention to the cause of widows.

Therefore, this is what the Master,  
the Lord of Hosts, says,

“Woe to the mighty *ones* of Israel!

For My wrath against My adversaries will not cease,  
and I will execute judgement on My enemies!

And I will bring my hand upon you,

and purge you completely.

I will destroy the disobedient,  
and will remove the lawless from among you,  
and humble the arrogant.

And I will establish your judges as before,

and your counsellors as at the beginning.

And after these things, you will be called the city of righteousness,  
Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

For her captives will be saved  
with judgement, and with mercy.

But the lawless and the sinners will be crushed together,

and those who forsake the Lord will come to an end.

For they will be ashamed of their idols they desired,

And the gardens which they longed for.

For they will be like a terebinth tree

that has lost its leaves,

and like a garden that has no water.

Their strength will be like a thread of flax,

and their works as sparks of fire,

and the lawless and the sinners will be burnt together,

and there will be no one to quench *them*.

The word, which came from the Lord to Isaias the son of Amos concerning Judea, and concerning Jerusalem.

For in the last days

the mountain of the Lord will be manifest,

and the house of God *will be* on the tops of the mountains,

and it will be exalted above the hills,

and all the nations will come to it.

And many nations will go and say,

“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

and to the house of the God of Jacob,

and He will proclaim us His way,  
and we will walk in it.”\*

For the law of the Lord will 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.*

“This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘See, I *will* save my people from the land of the east, and from the land of the west country. And I will bring them in, and make *them* dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they will be to Me a people, and I will be to them a God, in truth and in righteousness.’

This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘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 that the temple was built. For before those days the wages of men could not be profitable, and there could be no wages for cattle,

and because of affliction, there could be no peace to those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all people, each against his neighbour. But now I *will* not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather, I will demonstrate peace, the vine will yield its fruit, and the land will yield its produce, and the heaven will give its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of my people. And it will come to pass, as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Juda and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you will be 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! There-

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

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

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

## **The Praxis**

Acts 5:34-42

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **The Liturgy Gospel**

Psalms 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.*

And many nations will go and say,  
“Come, and let us go up to the  
mountain of the Lord,  
and to the house of the God of  
Jacob,  
and He will proclaim us His way,  
and we will walk in it.”

For a law will go forth from Zion,  
and the word of the Lord from  
Jerusalem.

And He will judge between the  
nations,  
and will rebuke many people,

and they will beat their swords  
into plows  
and their spears into pruning  
hooks,  
and nation will no long take up  
sword against nation,  
and they will not learn to wage war  
anymore.

And now, O house of Jacob,  
come, *and* let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!  
For he has abandoned his people,  
the house of Israel,  
for as from the beginning,  
their country is filled with divina-  
tions,  
like the *land* of the foreigners  
{Philistines},  
and many children of foreigners  
were born to them.  
For their land is filled with silver  
and gold,  
and their treasures were countless;

their land is also filled with horses,  
and their chariots were countless.  
And the land is filled with abomi-  
nations,  
the works of their hands,  
and they worshipped *the works*  
which their fingers had made.  
And so a man bowed down,  
and the man was humbled,  
and I will not forgive them!  
Now [therefore] enter into the  
rocks,  
and hide yourselves in the earth,  
from before the fear of the Lord,  
and from the glory of his might,  
when he will rise to crush the  
earth.  
For the eyes of the Lord are high,  
but man is lowly,  
and the haughtiness of man will be  
brought low,  
and the Lord will 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 with weeping,  
and with mourning,  
and tear your hearts, and not your  
clothing.  
and turn to the Lord your God,  
for He is merciful and compas-  
sionate,  
longsuffering, and plenteous in  
mercy,

and repents of evils.  
Who knows if he will return, and  
repent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
even a meat-offering and a drink-  
offering  
to the Lord your God?”

Sound the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast,  
proclaim a *solemn* service:  
gather the people,

sanctify the congregation,  
assemble the elders,  
gather the nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom go out of his  
bed-chamber,  
and the bride out of her bridal  
chamber.

Between the porch and the altar,  
the priests that minister to the  
Lord will weep, and say,  
“Spare Your people, O Lord,  
and do not give Your inheritance  
to the reproach  
of being ruled over by the nations,  
lest they should say among the  
nations,  
“Where is their God?””

But the Lord was jealous for His  
land,  
and spared His people.  
And the Lord answered and said  
to his people,  
“See, I *am* sending you  
grain, and wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied with  
them,  
and I will no longer make you a  
reproach among the nations.

And I will drive the [army] from  
the north away from you,  
and banish him to a parched land,  
and I will drown his face in the  
first sea,  
and his rear in the last sea,  
and his decay will rise up,  
and his stink come up,

because he magnified his works.

Be of good courage, O land,  
rejoice and be glad,  
for the Lord has done great things!  
Be of good courage, you animals  
of the plain,  
for the plains of the wilderness  
have blossomed,  
for the trees bear their fruit;  
the fig tree and the vine have  
yielded their full strength.

And you children of Zion,  
rejoice then and be glad in the  
Lord your God,  
for he has given you food that is  
right for you,  
and he will rain on you with the  
early and the late rain, as before.  
The threshing floors will be filled  
with grain,  
and the presses will overflow with  
wine and oil.

And I will recompense you for the  
years  
which the locust devoured,  
and the grasshopper, and the cat-  
erpillar, and the blight,  
*even for* my great army, which I sent  
against you.

And you will eat abundantly, and  
be satisfied,  
and will praise the Name of the  
Lord your God  
*for the* marvelous *things* He has  
done with you.

And My people will never again be put to shame.

Then you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and *that* I am the Lord your God, and *that* there is no other but me.

And my people will never again be put to shame.

*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 2:11c-19

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

And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts will

come upon all who are insolent  
and arrogant,  
and upon all who are high and  
lifted up,  
and they will be humbled;  
and upon every cedar of Lebanon,  
high and towering,  
and upon every oak of Basan,  
and upon every mountain,  
and upon every high hill,  
and upon every high tower,  
and upon every high wall,  
and upon every ship of the sea,  
and upon every sight of beautiful  
ships.

And every person will be hum-  
bled,  
and the haughtiness of man will  
fall,  
and the Lord alone will be exalted  
in that day.  
And they will hide all *idols* made by  
hands,  
carrying *them* into the caves,  
and into the clefts of the rocks,  
and into the holes of the earth,  
from before the fear of the Lord,  
and from the glory of His might,  
when He arises to crush 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 Al-  
mighty came to me, saying, “This is  
what the Lord Almighty says, “The  
fourth-month fast, and the fifth-  
month fast, and the seventh-month  
fast, and the tenth-month fast, shall  
be to the house of Juda for joy and  
gladness, and for good feasts. And  
you will rejoice, and you will love  
truth and peace.’

This is what Lord Almighty says,  
‘Many peoples will come yet, and the  
inhabitants of 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  
the face of the Lord Almighty; I too  
will go.” And many peoples and many  
nations will come to seek the face of  
the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem, and  
to obtain favour of the Lord. This is  
what the Lord Almighty says, “In  
those days if ten men from all the  
languages of the nations stop you—  
even if they take hold of the hem of a  
Jewish man, they will say, ‘We will go  
with you, for we have heard that 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 "pornos"

## **The Catholic Epistle**

### **1 John 1:8-2:11**

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

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the

righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, "I know him," and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to

abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

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

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

## The Praxis

### Acts 8:3-13

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

In the meantime, Saul ravaged the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them. When the people heard and saw the signs which Philip accomplished, they listened to what he preached with one accord. Indeed, unclean spirits were expelled from many of those who had them, and they came out shouting with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him, from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great

miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

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

## 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.*

Hear, therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do this, that it may be well with you, and you may be greatly multiplied, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.

And these *are* the statutes and the judgments, which the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the wilderness, when they came out of the land of Egypt. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, and with all you soul, and all your strength. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. And you shall teach them to your children, and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and it shall be unshakable before your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses, and on your gates.

And it will come to pass, when the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, and to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you great and beautiful cities

that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and wells dug in the rock that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant, then when you have eaten and are full, beware that you do not forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear the Lord your God, and serve Him, and cling to Him, and swear by His Name. Do not go after other gods, the gods of the nations around you, for the Lord your God, Who is in the midst of you, *is* a jealous God, lest the anger of Lord your God be roused 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 commands of the Lord your God, the testimonies, and the ordinances, which He commanded you. And you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and inherit the good land, which the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase all your enemies from before your face, as the Lord said.

And it shall be, when your son asks you in the future, saying, "What are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments that the Lord our God has commanded us?" Then you shall say to your son, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought us from there with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm. And the Lord set great and evil signs and wonders afflicting Egypt, on Pharaoh and on his house, before us. And He brought us out from there to give us this land, which he swore to give to our fathers. And the Lord charged us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, that we may live, at it is today. And there will be mercy to us, if we are watchful to keep all these commands before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.

And when the Lord your God brings you into the land you go to inherit, and removes great nations from before you, the Hittites, and Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canannites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations *more* numerous and stronger than you, and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, then you will strike them, you will utterly destroy them. You will not make a covenant with them, or show them mercy. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, and

you shall not take his daughter to your son. For she will draw away your son from Me, and he will serve other gods; and the Lord will be very angry with you, and will utterly destroy you suddenly. But this is what you shall do to 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; and the Lord your God chose you to be a peculiar people to Him, more than all the nations upon the face of the earth. It was not because you are more numerous than all *other* nations that the Lord preferred you and chose you, for you are the least in all the nations; but because the Lord loved you, and since He was keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a strong hand, and the Lord has redeemed you from the house of slavery, out of the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know, therefore, that the Lord your God, he *is* God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him, and those who keep His commandments, and Who repays those Who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. And He will not be slack with them that hate Him; He will repay them to their face. Therefore, You shalt keep the commands, and the statutes, and

these judgments, which I command you today to do.

And it will come to pass, when you listen to these statutes, and keep them and do them, that the Lord your God will keep for you the covenant and the mercy, which he swore to your fathers. And He will love you, and bless you, and multiply you; and He will bless the offspring of your womb, and the fruit of your land, your grain, and your wine, and your oil, the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep, on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to you. You will be blessed more than all the nations; there will not be an impotent or infertile one among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord your God will remove every illness from you, and He will not inflict all of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you have seen and that you have experienced, on you; but he will inflict them upon all that hate you. And you will eat all the spoils of the nations that the Lord your God gives to you; your eye will not have pity on them, and you shall not serve their gods; for that would be a snare to you.

But if you should say in your heart, "This nation *is* greater than I, how will I be able to destroy them?" you shall not be afraid of them; you shall remember all that the Lord your God did to Pharaoh, and to all the Egyptians: the great trials that your

eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders, the strong hand, and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the nations whose presence you fear. And the Lord your God will send the hornets against them, until those who are left, who hide from you, are destroyed. You will not be wounded before them, because the Lord your God in the midst of you *is* a great and powerful God. And the Lord your God will consume these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to consume them quickly, lest the land become desert, and the wild animals of the field multiply against you. And the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands, and you will destroy them with a great destruction, until He has utterly destroyed them. And He will deliver their kings into your hands, and you will destroy their name from that place; no one will be able to stand against you until you have utterly destroyed them. You will burn the carved images of their gods with fire. You shall not desire silver and gold from them, and you shall not take it for yourself, lest you stumble by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. And you shall not bring an abomination into your house, lest you be an anathema like it. You shall utterly abhor it, for it is an anathema {accursed thing}.

*Glory to the Holy Trinity.*

Isaias 3:1-14a

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

See now, the Lord, the Lord of  
hosts,  
will take away from Judea and  
from Jerusalem  
the mighty man and mighty woman,  
the strength of bread, and the  
strength of water,  
the great and mighty man, the man  
of war,  
both the judge and the prophet,  
the diviner, and the elder,  
the captain of fifty also,  
and the wonderful counselor,  
the skilled artisan,  
and the intelligent listener {disciple}.  
“And I will make youths their  
rulers,  
and mockers will rule over them.  
And the people will collapse,  
man upon man,  
and *every* man upon his neighbour;  
the child will stumble against the  
elder,  
and the vulgar against the honourable.”

For a man will take seize his  
brother,  
or one of his father’s household,  
saying,  
“You have clothing,  
be our ruler,  
and let my food  
be supplied by you.”

And he will answer in that day,  
and say,  
“I will not be your ruler,  
for I have no bread in my house,  
nor clothing.  
I will not be  
the ruler of this people.”  
For Jerusalem is ruined,  
and Judea has fallen,  
because their tongues are lawless,  
and they are disobedient to the  
Lord.

Therefore, their glory has now  
been brought low.

And the shame of their face has  
risen up against them;  
they have proclaimed their sin like  
that of Sodom,  
and have made it manifest.  
Woe to their soul!  
For they have devised an evil  
counsel against themselves,  
saying, “Let us bind the just, for  
he is burdensome to us.”

Therefore, they will eat the fruits  
of their works.

Woe to the wicked!  
Evil things will happen to him  
according to the works of his  
hands.

“O my people, your exactors strip  
you,  
and extortioners rule over you.

O my people, those who call you  
blessed lead you astray,



and confuse the path of your feet.”

But now the Lord will stand up to judge,  
and He will enter into judgement with his people.

The Lord Himself will enter into judgement

with the elders of the people, and with their rulers.

*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 your love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute

you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God's wrath follow its course. As it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord." Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

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

## The Catholic Epistle

### 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 Diotrophes, 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 your love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. Do not fall

back in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse! Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep! Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on exalted things, but associate with the humble. Do not think that you are wiser than you really are. Repay no one evil for evil. Show respect for what is honorable in

the sight of all. If it is possible, as much as is in your power, be at peace with all people. Do not seek revenge, beloved, but let God's wrath follow its course. As it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord." Therefore:

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.*

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

*In doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do not be overcome by evil; instead, overcome evil with good.

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

## **The Catholic Epistle**

James 1:1-12

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

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

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

anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

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

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

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

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

## **The Praxis**

### **Acts 21:27-39**

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

When the seven days were almost completed, Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the entire crowd and laid hands on him, shouting, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the {chosen} people, the law, and this place. Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place!" [They said this] because they had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with Paul in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

The entire city was in turmoil and the people came running. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the doors were shut. As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the [Roman] troops that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 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.*