

The Sunday and Paschaltide
Readings
of the
Coptic Rite

The Sunday and Paschaltide Readings of the Coptic Rite

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SUNDAYS

September or Θοοῤῥ

The First Sunday of September or Θοοῤῥ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 29:5, 11

A Psalm of David.

Sing to the Lord, you saints of His,
and confess at the remembrance of His holiness.

The Lord heard and had mercy on me;
the Lord became my helper.

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:11-19

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

Amen, I tell you: among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer! Yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John [came]. If you are willing to accept it, this [John] is Elias who was to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call to their friends and say, 'We played the flute for you and you did not dance. We mourned for you and you did not lament!' As it is, John came neither eating nor drinking, and so they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and so they say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But Wisdom is justified by her children." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 30:2, 19ab

A Psalm of David.

I have hoped in You, O Lord;
let me never be put to shame;
rescue me and deliver me in Your righteousness.
How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,
which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

Matthew 21:23-27

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

When he had come into the temple, the chief priests and the presbyters of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question and if you answer me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

They reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the crowd because everyone considers John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus: "We do not know."

He also said to them, "Then neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12-19a

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

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he has considered me faithful and has appointed me to [this] ministry, even though I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor and disrespectful. Nevertheless, I obtained mercy, because I

did those things in ignorance and unbelief; and so the grace of our Lord overflowed [onto me along] with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 1:22-27

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

Be 'doers of the word'; not only hearers who delude themselves! For if anyone is a 'hearer of the word' and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres [in it], not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

The Praxis

Acts 13:25-33a

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

As John was completing his work, he said, 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not he! But behold, one comes after me whose sandals I am

unworthy to untie.' Brethren, children of the line of Abraham, and those among you [Gentiles] who fear God, this message of salvation has been

sent to you! Indeed, those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath. But by condemning him, they fulfilled the prophets! Although they could find no cause for his execution, they still asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. After fulfilling all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the

tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are his witnesses to the people. And now, we bring you the Good News that the promise made to the fathers as come about: God has fulfilled it for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 30:24ab, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,
for the Lord requires truth.

How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,
which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:28-35

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

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

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just since they had been baptized with John’s baptism. However, the Pharisees and the

lawyers rejected God’s purpose, not being baptized by him themselves.

But the Lord said, “to what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and who call one another, saying: ‘We played the pipes to you, and you did not dance! We mourned, and you did not weep!’ For John the Baptizer came neither eating

bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunk-

ard; a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet Wisdom is justified by all her children." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Second Sunday of September or 0007T

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 7:11, 12a

A Psalm of David.

Righteous help comes to me from God,
Who saves the upright in heart.
God is a righteous judge, strong and patient.
Alleluia.

Luke 4:38-41

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

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with

various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 8:2ab, 5

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, our Lord,
how wonderful is Your Name in all the earth!
What is man that You remember him,
or the son of man that You visit him?

Alleluia.

Mark 1:35-39

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus arose, left the house, went out into a deserted place and prayed there. Simon and those with him followed Jesus. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone is looking for you!"

He replied, "Let us go somewhere else, into the next towns, so that I may preach there also, for this is why I came." He went into their synagogues throughout all of Galilee, preaching and casting out demons. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 1:12-2:10

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

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to guard what I have committed to him until that Day.

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

As you know, all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my imprisonment. When he was in Rome, he searched hard for me and he found me! May the Lord grant him

to find the Lord's mercy in that Day, for he served [me] at Ephesus in many ways, as you know very well.

You, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. What you heard from me among many witnesses, entrust likewise to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You too must endure tribulations as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of this life in order to be able to please the one who enrolled him as a soldier. Likewise, anyone who competes in athletics cannot be crowned unless he has competed by the rules. The farmers who labor must be the first to get a share of the crops. Think over what I have said, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember my Good News: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David. Because of this I suffer tribulations to the point of being in chains as a criminal. But God's word is not chained! There-

fore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 2:5-13

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

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever

keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not commit murder." Now, if you do not commit adultery but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

The Praxis

Acts 11:19-26

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

Now, those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Anti-

och, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Greeks and preached the Lord

Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. For Barnabas

was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 20:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

The king will be glad in Your power, O Lord,
and greatly rejoice in Your salvation.
You have given him his heart's desire,
and have not denied him the request of his lips.

Alleluia.

Luke 10:21-28

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

In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight."

Turning to the disciples, he said, "All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the

Son is, except the Father, and who the Father is, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Turning to the disciples, Jesus said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but they did not see them; and to hear what

you hear, but they did not hear them.”

Behold, an expert in the law stood up and tested him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of September or Θοοϣϣ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 9:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart;

I will tell of all Your wonders.

I will be glad and rejoice in You;

I will sing to Your Name, O Most High.

Alleluia.

Mark 1:29-34

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

As soon as they left the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately, they told him about her. Jesus came, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them. At evening, when the sun had set, they brought him all who

were sick or possessed by demons. The entire city was gathered at the door. He healed many who were afflicted with various diseases and cast out many demons. But he did not allow the demons to speak because they knew him, that He was Christ¹.
Glory be to God forever.

¹ “that He was Christ” is only found in the Coptic.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 9:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

And let those who know Your Name put their hope in You,
for You have never forsaken those who seek You, O Lord.
Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion;
declare His ways among the nations.

Alleluia.

Matthew 8:5-13

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

When Jesus came into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking and saying, "Lord, my servant lies in the house paralyzed, grievously tormented." Jesus answered, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof! Only say the word and my servant shall be healed. For I am also a man under authority, having soldiers under my own authority. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and if I tell another, 'Come,' he comes. Or if I tell my servant, 'Do this,' he does it!"

When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed, "Amen, I tell you that I have never found so great a faith, not even in Israel! I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed." And his servant was healed in that hour. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you

the testimony of God. Indeed, I resolved not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him

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

Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,

Which did not enter into the heart of man,

These God has prepared for those who love him.

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:13-21

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

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is

brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to

your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone's work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your

forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

The Praxis

Acts 9:22-31

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 17:45, 50

A Psalm of David.

The Lord lives! And my God is blessed;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
Therefore I will confess You
among the nations, O Lord,
and I will sing praise to Your Name.

Alleluia.

Luke 19:1-10

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

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was [about] to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!" He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. But when the people

saw it, they all grumbled, saying, "He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!"

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

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

The Fourth Sunday of September or Ἑορτή

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 32:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

For the word of the Lord is true,
and all His works are faithful.
He loves mercy and justice;
the earth is full of the Lord's mercy.

Alleluia.

Matthew 9:18-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

While he told these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

Jesus got up and followed him, as did his disciples. Behold, a woman who had had an issue of blood for twelve years came behind him and touched the fringe of his garment. [She did this because] she said within herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."

But Jesus, turning around and seeing her, said, "Daughter, rejoice!

Your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that very hour.

When Jesus came into the ruler's house, he saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion. He said to them, "Make room, because the girl is not dead, but sleeping," and they started to ridicule him. But when the crowd was put out, he entered in, took the girl by the hand and she arose. The report of this spread into the entire region. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 32:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
for He is our helper and protector;
For our heart rejoices in Him,
and we hope in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

Matthew 15:21-28

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

Jesus then left that area and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders, and cried out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, you son of David! My daughter is severely demonized!"

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away! She is shouting after us!"

However, Jesus answered, "I was not sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Still, the woman came forward and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, help me."

But he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

But she replied, "Yes, Lord, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done to you even as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that hour.
Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 1:1-14

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

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

you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who

comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, even so our consolation also overflows through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your consolation, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, knowing that, since you are partakers of the sufferings, you are also partaker of the comfort. For we do not desire to have you uninformed, brethren, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia: we were extremely oppressed, beyond our power, so much that we even despaired of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in

order that we should not trust in ourselves but [only] in God who raises the dead. He who delivered us from such a great death and continued to deliver; we hope that he will also deliver us. You also help by your supplication on our behalf; so that thanksgiving will be offered for the gift bestowed on us by means of many.

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:8b-12

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

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed:

whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should not be like Cain who was of the evil one and who killed his brother [Abel].

Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, while his brother's works were righteous.

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

The Praxis

Acts 9:36-42

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

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

showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 27:8, 9

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is the strength of His people,
and the protector and the salvation of His Anointed.
Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
shepherd them and raise them up forever.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:36-50

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

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered into the Pharisee's house, and sat at the table. And behold, a woman who was a sinner in the city, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of perfume. Standing behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with the hair of her head, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. Now, when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would have perceived who is touching him and what kind of woman this is, that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

He said, "Speak, teacher."

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Then, which of them will love him the most?"

Simon answered, "The one to whom he forgave the most I suppose."

Jesus said to him, "You have judged correctly." Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered into your house, and you gave me no water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave me no kiss, but since the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she has loved much. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fifth Sunday of September or Өоорт

See The Second Sunday of February or Ӱгүр, page 116.

October or Παῶπε

The First Sunday of October or Παῶπε

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 66:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,
and may He manifest His face upon us,
and have mercy upon us, *(Pause)*
that we may know Your way upon the earth,
[and] Your salvation among all nations.

Alleluia.

Matthew 14:15-21

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

When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, "This place is deserted, and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We only have here five loaves and two fish!"

Jesus said, "Bring them to me." Having instructed the crowds to sit

down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed, broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples distributed it to the multitudes. And so, everyone ate and was satisfied. His disciples gathered up twelve baskets full of what remained left over from the broken pieces. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 62:2ab, 3

A Psalm of David.

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You;
My soul thirsts for You.
So I appear before You in the sanctuary,
to see Your power and Your glory.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, this is my message for you."

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they

went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, "Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry." And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus

had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:22-2:5

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

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

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

*The grass withers, and its flower
falls;*

*but the word of the Lord endures for-
ever.*

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 13:36-43

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

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

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

*For in your days I [shall] accomplish
a work,*

*which you will not believe, even if one
would proclaim it to you.'*

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

encouraged them to persevere in the grace of God.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise will be continually in my mouth.
My soul will be praised in the Lord;
let the meek hear and be glad.
Alleluia.

Mark 2:1-12

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

After some time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum, it was heard that he was in the house. Immediately, many people gathered so that there was no more room, not even around the door. As Jesus was preaching the word to them, four men came, carrying a paralytic to him. Since they could not come near to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof where he was. When they had broken it up, they let down the mat that the paralytic was lying on. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

But there were some of the scribes sitting there, and they reasoned in their hearts, "Why does this man speak blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately, Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were reasoning within themselves in this way. He asked them, "Why do you reason these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven;' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed, and walk?' But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I tell you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house!"

The man arose, and at once took up the mat, and went out in front of them all. The people were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Second Sunday of October or Πάωπε

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 66:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Let the peoples confess You, O God;
let all the peoples confess You.
Let the nations be glad and rejoice;
for You will judge the peoples justly,
and guide the nations upon the earth.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:24-27

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

When they arrived in Capernaum, those who collected the temple tax came to Peter, and said, "Does not your teacher pay the temple tax?" He replied, "Yes."

When he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth receive toll or tribute? From their children, or from foreigners?"

Peter said to him, "From strangers!"

Jesus said to him, "Therefore, the children are exempt. But in order not to cause them to stumble, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take up the first fish that comes up. When you have opened its mouth, you will find a stater coin. Take it, and give it to them for me and you." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 62:7, 4a, 5a

A Psalm of David.

I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You at daybreak,
My lips will praise You,
So I will bless You in my life.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be

amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:5-15

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

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

light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

However, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that the amazing power may be from God, and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed!

We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. But we have the same spirit of

faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 3:13-4:6

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

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let such a person show by a good conduct that his deeds are done in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This 'wisdom' is not the one that comes down from above! It is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy. Now, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

These wars and conflicts among you, where do they come from? Is it

not from your desires that wage war in your members? You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God! Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The spirit which dwells in us longs to envy"? But he has given a greater, as the Scripture says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 14:24-15:3

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm Psalm 65:1, 2, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Sing to His Name; give glory to His praise.

Let all the earth worship You.

Alleluia.

Luke 5:1-11

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

Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and they were washing their nets. Jesus entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered him, "Master, we worked all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the net." When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and

their net was breaking. They beckoned to their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so [much] that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!" He and all who were with him were amazed at their catch of fish; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on, you will be catching people alive."

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of October or Παῶπε

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Palm 70:5, 6c, 7a

A Psalm of David.

For You are my patience, O Lord;
the Lord is my hope from my youth.
My song is continually of You.
I have become a wonder to many.

Alleluia.

Mark 4:35-41

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

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told

him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, saying to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He then asked his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?"

They were greatly afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 56:9b, 10, 11a

A Psalm of David.

I will arise at dawn.

I will confess You, O Lord,...

I will sing praises to You among the nations,
for Your mercy is magnified.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the

mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got

up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 16:12-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 4:7-17

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

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your

hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble your-

selves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and

make a profit." But do you not know what your life will be like tomorrow! Truly, what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But now, you boast and brag! All such boasting is evil. If someone knows how to do what is good and yet does not do it, it is a sin.

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

The Praxis

Acts 15:4-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 70:7b, 8

A Psalm of David.

You are my strong helper.

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise,

that I may sing of Your glory and magnificence all day long.

Alleluia.

Matthew 12:22-28

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

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, "Can this be the son of David?" 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. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fourth Sunday of October or Πάσπε

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:7, 8a

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with an upright heart,
when I learn of the judgments of Your righteousness;
I will keep Your statutes.

Alleluia.

Matthew 14:22-36

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

Immediately after this, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and told them to go ahead of him to the other side, while he would send the crowds away. After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters."

And Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, "You are truly the Son of God!"

When they had crossed over [the lake], they arrived in the land of Gennesaret. When the people of that place recognized him, they sent word into all that surrounding region and people brought him all who were sick. They begged him to be able to just

touch the fringe of his garment, and *Glory be to God forever.*
all those who touched it were healed.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 34:18, 28

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You[, O Lord] in a great assembly.

I will praise You among many people.

And my tongue will tell of Your righteousness,
and sing Your praise all the day long.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other

disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni!” (which is to say, “Teacher!”)

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 6:3-21

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

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

Godliness, in fact, brings great gain if one is content. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything out! But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that. Those who are determined to become rich fall into a temptation and a snare with many senseless and harmful lusts which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is

a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, man of God, flee these things! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith! Hang on to the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good profession [of faith] in the sight of many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who witness before Pontius Pilate to this good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment undefiled and blameless until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ which in due time God will reveal. To him who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, alone possessing immortality and dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no

one has seen, nor can see: to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

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

selves a good foundation for the future and take hold of eternal life.

Timothy, guard what has been committed to you! Turn away from worldly and empty discussions and from the contradiction of the (falsely) so-called knowledge. Those who have embraced this have wandered from the faith! Grace be with you! Amen.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 4:17-5:11

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

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts' content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered

the righteous one who does not resist you.

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 15:36-16:5

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 78:13

A Psalm of David.

We, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture,
will confess You openly forever;
we will declare Your praise from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:11-17

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

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a city called Nain. Many of his disciples, along with a great multitude, went with him. Now, when Jesus drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a dead person was being carried out, who was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said to her, "Do not cry." He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He then

said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. Jesus then gave him to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited his people!" This news concerning Jesus spread throughout Judea and in all the surrounding countryside. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fifth Sunday of October or Παῶπε

See The Second Sunday of February or Ὑῶρ, page 116.

November or **Aðop**

The First Sunday of November or **Aðop**

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 16ab, 7ab, [16:6a or 17:7c]

A Psalm of David.

The ocean beds were exposed,
and the foundations of the world were uncovered.
I called upon the Lord,
and cried to my God:
He heard my voice.
Alleluia.

Mark 4:10-20

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

When he was alone, those who were around him together with the Twelve asked him about the parables. Jesus told them, “The mystery of the Kingdom of God is given to you, but to those who are outside, everything comes in parables, so that ‘seeing they may [indeed] see, and [yet] not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and [yet] not understand; otherwise they might repent and be forgiven them.’”

Jesus asked them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the [other] parables? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like the seed sowed

by the edge of the road where the word is sown. As soon as they have heard, Satan comes and takes away the word which had been sown in them. Likewise, those who are sown on the rocky places are those who receive the word with joy as soon as they hear it. But they have no root in themselves and only last for a short while. When oppression or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately stumble. Others are those who are sown among the thorns.

These are people who have heard the word, but the worries of this age, the deceit of wealth, and the desire to

possess things enter in and choke the word. Thus, it produces no fruit. The seeds which were sown on the good ground are those who hear the word,

accept it, and bear fruit. Some multiply thirty times, some sixty, and some a hundred times!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 64:10 [65:9 or 10 references, but not found in Psalm text]

A Psalm of David.

You visited the earth and watered it;
You enriched it abundantly;
The river of God is full of water;
You prepare their flood,
for such is Your provision.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you

into Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, this is my message for you."

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with

these words, "Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry." And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some

[still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Corinthians 9:1-9

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

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

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

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

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

His righteousness remains forever.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or consider the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 10:37-11:1

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

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put

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

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. The believers who had come with Peter and who were of the circumcision

were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. Indeed, they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God.

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 64:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Water its furrows, multiply its crops;
they will sprout and rejoice in the showers.
You will bless the crown of the year with Your goodness,
and the fields will be full of fat stock.

Alleluia.

Luke 8:4-15

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

When a great multitude came together, and people from every city were coming to him, he spoke by a

parable. “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the wayside, and it was trampled

under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it. Other seed fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew, it withered away because it had no moisture. Other fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew with it, and choked it. Other fell into the good ground, grew, and brought forth fruit a hundred times.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

Then his disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

Jesus replied, “To you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest, [it is given] in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ Now, this what the parable means: The seed is the word

of God. Those along the wayside are those who hear. Then, the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are those who receive the word with joy when they hear. But they have no root; they believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation. What fell among the thorns is those who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries, wealth, and the pleasures of life; and they bring no fruit to maturity. As for the seed that fell in the rich soil, this is those who have heard the word with an honest and good heart, who retain it and bring forth fruit with endurance. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Second Sunday of November or **Æþop**

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 103:13, 14ab

A Psalm of David.

You are He Who waters mountains from His higher places;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

You are He Who makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for the service of man.

Alleluia.

Luke 12:27-31

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

Consider the lilies, how they grow. They do not toil or spin; yet, I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? Do not set your

hearts on what you will eat or drink; do not be apprehensive. It is the pagan world that runs after all these things, and your Father understands that you need them. Seek rather the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 66:7, 8b

A Psalm of David.

The earth has yielded her fruit;
may God, our God, bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.
Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be

amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 6:7-15

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

Jude 14-25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 5:19-29

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

But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we

opened them, we found no one inside!”

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One [officer] came forward and told them, “Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people.” Then, the captain went with the officers and brought them without using force because they were afraid that the people might stone them.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, “Did we not strictly order you

not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us!"

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 103:16, 10

A Psalm of David.

The trees of the plain will be fed,
the cedars of Lebanon, which He planted.
[You are] He Who makes springs gush down into ravines;
the waters will flow between the mountains.

Alleluia.

Matthew 13:1-9

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

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the seaside. As great crowds gathered to [listen to] him, he entered into a boat and sat while the people stood on the beach. He told them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, a farmer went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them. Others fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they

sprang up. But because they had no depth of soil, when the sun rose, they were [quickly] scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. Anyone who has ears should listen!"
Glory be to God forever.

The Third Sunday of November or **Aëop**

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 85:2b, 3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Save Your servant, O my God, who hopes in You.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

for I will cry to You all day long.

Gladden the soul of Your servant.

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:25-30

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

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

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

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

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 112:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

From the sun's rising to its setting,

praise the Name of the Lord!

The Lord is high above all the nations;

His glory is above the heavens.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

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

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

We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith is growing wonderfully and your mutual love for all is overflowing. Therefore, in the Churches of God, we boast

about you for your patience, faith in all your persecutions and for the afflictions which you endure. This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, so that you may be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you too suffer. It is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us. This will be when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his

mighty angels in flaming fire, bringing vengeance to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes to be glorified in his holy ones and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:3-11

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 5:30-42

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:15, 16

A Psalm of David.

But You, O Lord God, are compassionate and merciful,
longsuffering, plenteous in mercy, and true.
Look upon me and have mercy on me;
give Your strength to Your servant,
and save the son of Your handmaid.

Alleluia.

Luke 14:25-35

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

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

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

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

The Fourth Sunday of November or **Æþop**

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 85:12, 10

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
And I will glorify Your Name forever,
For You are great, and work wonders;
You alone are the great God.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:14-21

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

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him who knelt down before him and said: "Lord, have mercy on my son! He is epileptic and suffers terribly as he often falls into the fire and in the water. And so, I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Jesus answered, "Faithless and perverse generation! how much longer must I be with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him to me." When Jesus rebuked it, the

demon went out of the boy and he was cured from that hour.

Then, the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why were not we able to cast it out?"

He replied, "Because of your unbelief! Amen, I tell you that if you have faith [even] like a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind [of spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 142:8

A Psalm of David.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for I have hoped in You.

Make me know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk,
for I lift up my soul to You.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she

was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the

Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:1-8

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 16:40-17:7

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

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

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

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

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and

not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 99:3bc

A Psalm of David.

[You, O Lord God] made us, and not we ourselves;
we are [Your] people and the sheep of [Your] pasture.

Alleluia.

Mark 10:17-31

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

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

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

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

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

However, the man was distressed when he heard this. He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for the wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words. But again, Jesus said, "Children, how hard it is for those who

trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of God!”

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

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

Peter began to tell him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you.”

Jesus replied, “Amen, I tell you: there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, father or mother, or wife, children, or land, for my sake and for the sake of the Good News who will not receive a hundred times more in this time: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, (with persecutions); and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last; and the last [will be] first.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fifth Sunday of November or Թոօր

See The Second Sunday of February or Ապր, page 116.

December or Κοιᾶζκ

The First Sunday of December or Κοιᾶζκ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 12:2, 3a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

How long, O Lord, will You forget me? Forever?

How long will You turn Your face from me?

Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God;

enlighten my eyes.

Alleluia.

Mark 14:3-9

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

While Jesus was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar, and poured the oil over his head. But there were some who were upset and who said, “Why has this ointment been wasted? It could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” They grumbled against her, but Jesus said, “Leave her alone! Why

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

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 101:20b, 21a, 22

A Psalm of David.

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

Alleluia.

Mark 12:41-44

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

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

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

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:1-17

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through

him, we received have grace and apostleship, for obedience of faith among all the nations, for his Name's sake. Among them, you are also called to belong to Jesus Christ.

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

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the

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

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

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

Indeed, I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ! a It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For in the Gospel God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith."

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 1:1-18

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

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

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let such one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in

faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not think that anything will be received from the Lord. This is being double- minded, unstable in every way.

But let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass,

its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him. When temptations come, let no one say, "I am tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust,

when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

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

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

from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

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

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

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the

sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

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

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 101:14ab, 17

A Psalm of David.

When You arise You will and have compassion on Zion,
for it is the appointed time to have compassion on her;
for the Lord will build up Zion,
and He will appear in His glory.

Alleluia.

Luke 1:1-25

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

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

write an ordered account to you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the days of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zacharias who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of

them were righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. Yet, they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were well advanced in years. Now, it came to pass that while Zacharias was performing his priestly office before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priest's office, that his lot was [drawn] to enter into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. Now, at the time of the incense offering, the whole multitude of the people was praying outside.

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

the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lord."

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

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

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

The Second Sunday of December or ΚΟΙΔΕΚ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 143:5, 7a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, bow the heavens, and come down;
touch the mountains, and they will smoke.
Send out Your hand from on high;
deliver me and save me.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:36-50

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

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered into the Pharisee's house, and sat at the table. And behold, a woman who was a sinner in the city, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of perfume. Standing behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with the hair of her head, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. Now, when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would have perceived who is touching him and what kind of woman this is, that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

He said, "Speak, teacher."

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Then, which of them will love him the most?"

Simon answered, "The one to whom he forgave the most I suppose."

Jesus said to him, "You have judged correctly." Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered into your house, and you gave me no water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with the her hair. You gave me no kiss, but since the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are

forgiven because she has loved much. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 71:6, 7a and half of b

A Psalm of David.

He will descend like rain on a fleece,
and like drops falling on the earth.

In His days, righteousness and abundant peace
will flourish.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:20-28

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

However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come to you!

When a strong man is fully armed and guards his own house, his goods are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters!

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding no rest, the unclean spirit says, ‘I will return to my house from which I

came out.’ When he returns, he finds it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first.”

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”

But Jesus said, “Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:1-4:3

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

And so, what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God! But what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written,

That you might be justified in your words,

and might prevail when you come into judgment.

But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous if he inflicts wrath? (I speak like men do!) May it never be! For then, how will God judge the world? For if through my lie the truth of God overflowed to his [own] glory, why am I still judged as a sinner? Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), "Let us do evil, that good may come?" Those who say so are justly condemned. What then? Are we better than they? No, by no means! For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written,

There is no one righteous; no, not one.

There is no one who understands.

There is no one who seeks after God.

They have all turned aside.

They have together become worthless.

There is no one who does good, no, not, so much as one.

Their throat is an open tomb,

With their tongues they have used deceit.

The poison of vipers is under their lips;

Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

Their feet are swift to shed blood.

Destruction and misery are in their ways.

The way of peace, they have not known.

There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it. It is the

righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a

person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

What then will we say that Abraham (our forefather according to the flesh) gained? Certainly, if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, although not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:2

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to

you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion

with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we

make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

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

The Praxis

Acts 7:30-34

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

When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, a voice of the Lord came to him, [saying], ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses trembled and

dared not look. The Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have indeed seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their groaning. I have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 44:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Listen, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear,
and forget your people and your father's house,
for the King desired your beauty,
for He is your Lord.

Alleluia.

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Third Sunday of December or Κοιαζκ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 131:13, 14, 15a

A Psalm of David.

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
He chose her for His dwelling:
“This is My resting-place to the age of ages;
I will dwell here, for I have chosen her.
Blessing, I will bless her widow.”

Alleluia.

Mark 1:23-31

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Just then, there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit who cried out, “Away! What do we have to do with you, Jesus, you Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God!”

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

The unclean spirit, convulsing the man and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching? For with authority he commands even the

unclean spirits, and they obey him!” The news about him went out immediately everywhere into all the region of Galilee and its surrounding area.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately, they told him about her. Jesus came, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 84:8, 9ab

A Psalm of David.

Show us Your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us Your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God will speak within me;
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints.

Alleluia.

Matthew 15:21-31

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

Jesus then left that area and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders, and cried out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, you son of David! My daughter is severely demonized!"

But Jesus did not answer her a word.

His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away! She is shouting after us!"

However, Jesus answered, "I was not sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Still, the woman came forward and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, help me."

But he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

But she replied, "Yes, Lord, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be it done to you even as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Jesus departed and came near the sea of Galilee. He went up into the mountain and sat there. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, blind, mute, crippled, and many others; and they put them down at his feet. He healed them, and the crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:4-24

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

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

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

Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them. He is the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of that faith of

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

promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. Therefore, it also was “credited to him for righteous-

ness.” Now, it was not written that “it was accounted to him” for his sake alone. It was [written] also for our sake; faith will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 7:35-50

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

This Moses, whom they had rejected by saying: 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'—God sent as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. Having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, this man led them out in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.' It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, 'Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

'Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices

forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

You took up the tabernacle of Moloch,

the star of your god Rephan,

the figures which you made to worship.

I will carry you a way beyond Babylon.'

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

Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is a footstool for my feet.

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

‘or what is the place of my rest?

Did not my hand make all these things?’

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 84:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed [each other].
Truth has sprung from the earth,
and righteousness has looked down from heaven.
Alleluia.

Luke 1:39-56

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

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

things which have been spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

Mary said,

*My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,*

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

For behold, from now on, all generations shall call me blessed.

For he who is mighty has done great things for me, And Holy is his Name!

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

*He has shown strength with his arm,
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,*

*He has put down princes from their
thrones.*

And has exalted the lowly.

*He has filled the hungry with good
things,*

He has sent the rich away empty.

*He has given help to Israel, his serv-
ant,*

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

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

The Fourth Sunday of December or ΚΟΙΤΑΖΚ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 86:5

A Psalm of David.

A man will say, “Mother Zion,”
and, “a man was born in her,”
for the Most High Himself founded her.

Alleluia.

Luke 8:1-3

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

Soon afterwards, Jesus went
through cities and villages, preaching
and bringing the Good News of the
Kingdom of God. With him were the
Twelve, and certain women who had
been healed of evil spirits and
infirmities: Mary who was called

Magdalene, from whom seven
demons had gone out; Joanna, the
wife of Chuzas, Herod’s steward;
Susanna; and many others; who
served him from their possessions.
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 95:11, 12b, 13

A Psalm of David.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea, and all that is in it, roar.
All the trees of the forest will rejoice
before the face of the Lord; For He is coming,
He is coming to... the world in righteousness,
and the peoples by His truth.
Alleluia.

Mark 3:28-35

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

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

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

group was sitting around him, and they

told him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you."

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

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 9:6-33

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

But it is not as though the word of God has come to nothing. For those of 'Israel' are not all Israel, And just because they are Abraham's seed, not all are children. But, "In Isaac, will your seed will called." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as descendants. For this is a word of promise, "At the appointed time I will

come, and Sarah will have a son." Not only so, but Rebecca also conceived by our father Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might stand, not of works, but of him who calls), it was said to her, "The elder will serve the younger." Even as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

What then shall we say? That there is injustice with God? May it never be! For he said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." And so, it is not about someone willing or running, but it depends on God who has mercy. Thus, the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose, I caused you to be raised up, so that I might show in you my power, and that my Name might be proclaimed in all the earth." And so, God has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. You will then ask me, "Why does God still find fault? Who can resist his will?"

But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath and also to make his power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory? That is us, whom he also called, not from the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? As he says also in Hosea:

I will call them 'my people,' which were not my people;

and her 'beloved,' who was not beloved.

It will be that in the place where it was said to them,

'You are not my people,'

There they will be called 'children of the living God.'

Isaias cries concerning Israel:

If the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea,

It is the remnant who will be saved;

For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness,

Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.

As Isaias has said before:

Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us a seed,

We would have become like Sodom,

And would have been made like Gomorrah.

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not in fact arrive at the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but by the works of the law! They stumbled over the stumbling stone, even as it is written:

Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and a rock of offense;

And no one who believes in him will be disappointed.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:24-3:3

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

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he

is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him. Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

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

The Praxis

Acts 7:8-22

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

God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. Then Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the Twelve patriarchs.

Filled with jealousy against Joseph, the patriarchs sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. He delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him governor over Egypt

and his entire house. Now, a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, along with great suffering, and our fathers could not find any food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on a first visit. On their second visit, Joseph was revealed to his brothers and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. Joseph sent [a message] and called his father Jacob as well as all his relatives (seventy-five souls). So Jacob went down into Egypt where he died, along with our fathers. Later, they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem.

As the time of the promise which God had sworn to Abraham came

close, the people were growing and multiplying in Egypt. Then, a different king, one who did not know Joseph, came to power there. This king took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to throw out their babies, so that they would not stay alive. At that time, Moses was born, and he was pleasing to God. For three months, he was nourished in his father's house; and when he was thrown out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and raised him as her own son. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and actions.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 79:2c, 3, 4

A Psalm of David.

[You] Who is enthroned upon the Cherubim, manifest Yourself!
Raise up Your power before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
and come to save us!
O God, bring us back,
and let Your face shine, and we will be saved.

Alleluia.

Luke 1:57-80

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

Now, the time when Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and they wanted to name him Zacharias after his father. But his mother answered, "It shall not be! Instead, he will be called John!"

They said to her, "But there is no one among your relatives who is called by this name!" They made signs to his father so see what he wanted to have his son called.

Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

They were all very surprised. Suddenly, his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He began to speak, blessing God. Awe came upon all who lived around them, and people talked about these sayings throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All those who heard these things took them to heart and exclaimed, "What then will this child be?" The hand of the Lord was with him.

His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has visited and worked redemption for his people;*

and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David

(as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been from of old),

salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

to show mercy towards our fathers,

to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he spoke to Abraham, our father,

to grant to us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,

should offer him divine service without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God,

by which the dawn from on high will visit us,

to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The child was growing up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel. Glory be to God forever.

The Fifth Sunday of December or Κοιταζκ

See The Second Sunday of February or **Աջր**, page 116.

January or Ἰωβι

The First Sunday of January or Ἰωβι

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 46:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with a voice of rejoicing.
For the Lord Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.
Alleluia.

Luke 4:40-44

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

When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

When it was day, he departed and went into an uninhabited place. The people were looking for him and came to [see] him. They held on to him in order to prevent Jesus from leaving them. But he said to them, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also. I have been sent for this reason!" And he continued preaching in the synagogues of Galilee. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 92:1bc, 2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty;
The Lord robed and girded Himself with power;
Your throne is prepared from of old,
You are from everlasting.

Alleluia.

Luke 4:31-37

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

He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. He was teaching them on the Sabbath day, and they were astonished at his teaching because his word was with authority. In the synagogue, there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ah! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" When the demon had thrown the man among them, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

Amazement came on all, and they spoke together, one with another, saying, "What is this word? For he commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!" News about him went out into every place of the surrounding region.
Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 15:4-19a

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

For whatever things were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patience and through the Scriptures' encouragement we might have hope. Now, may the God of endurance and encour-

agement grant you to be together of the same mind according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord, you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God. Now, I say that Christ was made a servant of the circumcision for the truth of God, so that he might confirm the promises given to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

Therefore, I will give you praise among the Gentiles,

And sing to your Name.

Again he says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

Again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!

Let all the peoples praise him.

Again, Isaiah says:

There will be the root of Jesse,

He who arises to rule over the Gentiles;

In him the Gentiles will hope.

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believ-

ing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God's Spirit.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:1-11

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

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him. Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when

he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take

away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning

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

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

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

The Praxis

Acts 14:24-15:3

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 97:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

The Lord made known His salvation;
He revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered His mercy to Jacob
and His truth to the house of Israel.

Alleluia.

Matthew 2:13-23

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

After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. They remained there until the death of Herod, so what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Out of Egypt I have called my son.

When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and under, according to the exact

time which he had learned from the wise men. And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was in Egypt, saying: "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and return the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill the young child's are dead."

Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel. However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go

there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had

been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Second Sunday of January or **Ἰωβ**

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 97:3bc, 9bc

A Psalm of David.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with uprightness.

Alleluia.

Matthew 14:22-36

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

Immediately after this, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and told them to go ahead of him to the other side, while he would send the crowds away. After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were trou-

bled and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters."

And Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, "You are truly the Son of God!" When they had crossed over [the lake], they arrived in the land of

Gennesaret. When the people of that place recognized him, they sent word into all that surrounding region and people brought him all who were sick. They begged him to be able to just touch the fringe of his garment, and all those who touched it were healed. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 96:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad!
Clouds and darkness are around Him;
righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne.
Alleluia.

Mark 3:7-12

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

Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great crowd followed him from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea beyond the Jordan, and also from around Tyre and Sidon. Hearing what great things Jesus was doing, a great multitude of people came to him. Jesus instructed his disciples to have a little boat stay near him because of the crowd, so that they

would not press on him. For he had healed many people, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him in order to touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him and cried, "You are the Son of God!" He sternly warned them that they should not make him known. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 5:2-10

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

Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit to you! Yes, once again, I testify to everyone who receives circumcision that he is [now] under duty to accomplish the whole law! You who desire to be justified by the law are no longer under Christ: you have fallen away from grace. As for us, through the Spirit, we wait by faith for the hope of righteousness, since in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value,

only faith working through love. You were running so well! Who came to block your way so that you would not obey the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you! [Remember], a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough! I have confidence toward you in the Lord that you will take no other view; but whoever troubles you will bear his [own] judgment, whoever that [person] may be.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:18-24

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

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is

pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

The Praxis

Acts 15:22-29

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

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the presbyters, along with the whole Church, to choose some of their own men and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brethren. Through their hands, they wrote:

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 83:7b, 8a; 64:3

A Psalm of David.

For there the Lawgiver will give blessings.
They will go from strength to strength;
Hear my prayer [O God]!

All flesh will come to You.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:27-36

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.

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, “Blessed is the

womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”

But Jesus said, “Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

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.*

The Third Sunday of January or ƿωΒι

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 76:19bc, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Your lightnings gave light to the world;
the earth shook and trembled.
[O God,] Your ways are in the sea,
and Your paths in many waters.

Alleluia.

John 5:1-18

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

After these things, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem, by the sheep gate, there is a pool with five porches called in Hebrew "Bethesda". Under these laid a great multitude of people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at certain times into the pool, and stirred up the water. Then whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made whole of whatever disease he had. A certain man was there, who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that the man had been sick for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man replied, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, someone else steps down before me!"

Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your mat, and walk!"

Immediately, the man was made well; he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now, it was the Sabbath on that day. And so, the Jews said to the man

who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath! It is not lawful for you to carry the mat!"

The man answered them, "He who made me well, that one said to me, 'Take up your mat, and walk.'"

Then they asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your mat, and walk?'"

But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn in the crowd that was there.

Later, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well. Sin no more, so that nothing worse may happen to you!"

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him because he did these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I am also working." Because of this, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, not only because he broke the Sabbath, but also because he called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 96:6

A Psalm of David.

The heavens proclaimed His righteousness,
and all the peoples beheld His glory.
His lightning gave light to the world;
the earth saw and shook.

Alleluia.

John 3:1-21

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

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

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

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

Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I tell you; unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wants to,

and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?"

Jesus replied and said, "You are the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Amen, amen, I tell you; we speak of what we know, and [we] bear witness to what we have seen, and you do not receive our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you [about] heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that

everyone who is believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the

light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:19-39

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

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of

fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses’ law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of God and profanated the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified, and offended the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine, says the Lord”, “I will repay.” And also, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! But remember the early days when you had just been enlightened, how you endured a great struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were exposed to insults and oppressions; and at other times you stood with those who were treated in such a way. Indeed, you had compassion for me in my chains and joyfully accepted the seizure of your property,

knowing that you have a better and enduring property in the heavens. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward. Indeed, you need endurance in order to receive the promise after having done the will of God:

*In a very little while,
he who comes will come and will not
wait.*

*But the righteous will live by faith.
If he shrinks back, my soul has no
pleasure in him.*

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who believe and so are saved.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:11-21

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

Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have

boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

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

The Praxis

Acts 2:38-45

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

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far away, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." With many other words, he was bearing witness and urging them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Then, those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three

thousand souls were added on that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were accomplished through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and shared them with all, according to everyone's need.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 65:12bc, 8

A Psalm of David.

We passed through fire and water,
and You brought us out to revival.
Bless our God, O nations,
and make the voice of His praise be heard.
Alleluia.

John 3:22-36a

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

After these things, Jesus came with his disciples into the land of Judea. He stayed there with them, and baptized. John also was baptizing at

Enon near Salim, because there was much water there, and people came, and [they] were baptized. (For John had not yet been thrown into prison). Now, there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with some Jews about ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, behold, this one is [now] baptizing and everyone is coming to him!"

John answered, "No one can receive anything, unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom who stands [by] and

hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so my joy is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and from the earth he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all. What he has seen and heard is what he bears witness to, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted his testimony has set his seal [to this], that God is true. Indeed the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life.

Glory be to God forever.

The Fourth Sunday of January or Ἰωβί

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 77:20ab, 23

A Psalm of David.

[Behold,] He struck a rock and water gushed out
and brooks flooded.

Then He commanded the clouds above,
and opened the doors of heaven.

Alleluia.

John 5:31-46

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

If I bear witness about myself, my testimony is not valid. There I another who bears witness to me, and I know that the testimony by which he bears witness about me is true. You have sent [messengers] to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things so that you may be saved. John was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, because the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, they bear witness about me, that the Father has sent me. The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. You have never heard his voice at any time, and you have never seen his outward appearance. You do not have

his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 79:8, 19

A Psalm of David.

O Lord God of hosts, bring us back,
and let Your face shine [upon us], and we will be saved.
Then we will never turn away from You [again];
You will revive us and we will call on Your Name.

Alleluia.

John 6:47-58

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who is believing in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life! Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, its purpose is that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, this one will live forever! Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

At this, the Jews disputed with one another, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus therefore said to them, "Amen, amen, I tell you; unless you

eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 11:13-36

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

For I speak to you who are Gentiles: since I am an apostle to Gentiles, I glorify my ministry. May I somehow provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh so that I may save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciling of the world, what would their acceptance be, if not life from the dead? If the first fruit is holy, so is the whole batch. If the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them. Having become partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive tree; do not boast over the branches!

But if you boast, it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in." True; by their unbelief they were broken off, and you stand [in] by your faith. Do not be full of pride, but fear! Certainly, if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you! You see, then, both the goodness and the severity of God. Toward those who fell, severity [was shown]; but towards you, goodness, [that is], if you continue in his goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. As for them, if they do not continue in

their unbelief, they will be grafted in {again}, because God is able to graft them in again. If you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted against nature into a good olive tree, how much more will the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!

Indeed, I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brethren, so that you may not claim to be wiser than you are: a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles should come in. And thus all Israel will be saved. Even as it is written:

There will come out of Zion the Deliverer,

and he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

This is my covenant to them,

When I will take away their sins.

Concerning the Good News, they are enemies for your sake. But concerning the election, they are

beloved for the sake of the forefathers. Indeed, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable! In the past, you were disobedient to God, but now, you have obtained mercy by their disobedience. Likewise, they also have now been disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. For God has bound all men to disobedience, so that he might have mercy on all.

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and how unfathomable are his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?

Or who has first given to the Lord so as to be paid back?

Indeed, from him, and through him, and to him, are all things. To him be the glory unto the ages! Amen.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:9-21

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

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar,

because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but

whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

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

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

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

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

The Praxis

Acts 11:2:18

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

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, saying, "You went into the house of uncircumcised people and ate with them!" But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain containerlike a great sheet was let down from heaven by four

corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice

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

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

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 35:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

For the fountain of life is with You,
and we see light in Your light.

O continue Your mercy to those who know You,
and Your righteousness to the upright in heart!

Alleluia.

John 9:1-38

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

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither did

this man sin, nor his parents; but [it was] in order that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when

no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva and anointed the blind man’s eyes with the mud. He then said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbors and those who saw that he had been blind before said, “Is this not the man who sat and begged?” Others were saying, “It is he!” Still others were saying, “He looks like him.”

The man said, “I am he!” Therefore, the people asked him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered, “A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.’ And so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they asked him, “Where is he?”

The man replied, “I do not know.”

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see!”

At this, some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There

was division among them. Therefore, they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

He said, “He is a prophet!”

The Jews did not believe [the report] about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of this man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself.”

His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, this person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age. Ask him!”

And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!”

At this, the man answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!”

Again, asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do

not also want to become his disciples, do you?”

Then they insulted him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

The man answered them, “How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this

man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

The man answered, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe!” and he worshiped Jesus. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fifth Sunday of January or ԴՈԲԻ

See The Second Sunday of February or ԱԳՐ, page 116.

February or Ապր

The First Sunday of February or Ապր

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 81:8, 6

A Psalm of David.

Arise, O God, judge the earth,
for You will inherit all the nations
I said, “you are gods
and all of you are sons of the Most High.”

Alleluia.

John 6:15-21

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

Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force in order to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea where they got into the boat and headed across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not returned to them. Because a great wind was blowing,

the sea became rough. After rowing about three or four miles, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and approaching the boat. And they were frightened, but Jesus said to them, “It is I! Do not be afraid!” At this, they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately, the boat reached the shore where they were going. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:105, 135

A Psalm of David.

Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my paths.
Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
and teach me Your statutes.

Alleluia.

John 8:51-59

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

Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

Then the Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, and [so did] the prophets; and [yet] you say, ‘whoever keeps my word will never see death.’ Are you greater than our father, Abraham, who died? The prophets died [too]. Who do you claim to be?”

Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, ‘I do not know him,’ I would be

like you, a liar. But I [do] know him, and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad!”

At this, the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; before Abraham came into existence, I am.”

Therefore, they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus was hidden, and having gone through their midst and so passing by, he went out of the temple. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 5:11-6:11

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

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

or a drunkard, or someone dishonest. [In fact], do not even eat with such a person! For what do I have to do with judging those who are outside?

Do you not judge those who are within? But those who are outside, God judges.

“Put away the wicked man from among yourselves!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:14-18

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 9:3-9

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

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

He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 95:6, 4

A Psalm of David.

Confession and beauty are before Him;

holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

For the Lord is great, and very much praiseworthy;

He is to be feared above all gods.

Alleluia.

John 6:22-27

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

On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, [a few] boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. And so, when the multitude noticed that neither Jesus nor his disciples was not there, they got into the boats and went to

Capernaum to seek Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you arrive here?”

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were satisfied. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For the Father has sealed him – [even] God!” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Second Sunday of February or Ἀγῡρ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 14:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle,
or who will live on Your holy mountain?
He who walks blamelessly, and works righteousness,
who speaks truth in his heart.

Alleluia.

John 4:46-53

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


[Therefore, Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee where he had turned the water into wine.] Now, there was a certain royal official whose son was

sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and begged him that he would come down and

heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Jesus then said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will never believe!"

The nobleman said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus told him, "Go on your way. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and he went on his way. Even as he was on the way, his servants met him and told him the news: "Your child lives!"

He asked them the hour when the boy had begun to get better. Then, they told him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him!" And so, the father learned that it was at that [very] hour in which Jesus had said to him, "Your son lives." And he believed, along with his whole household. *Glory be to God forever.*

* *lacking in Kitchener.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 23:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

Who will ascend into the mountain of the Lord,
or who will stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Alleluia.

John 3:17-21

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

For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him. The one believing in him is not judged, but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and

men loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, for fear that his works would be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be revealed as done in God." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 7:1-17

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

This Melchizedek was king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham when he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and who blessed him. Moreover, Abraham gave a tenth part of all to this Melchizedek. By the interpretation of his name, he is, first, 'king of saving justice' and also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace'; without father, mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. He was made like the Son of God and remains a priest for all times. Now, consider how great this man was, since even the Patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth out from the best spoils! Indeed, the sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, although they too are Abraham's descendants. But this man, who was not of the same descent, received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who has the promises! Now, nobody will question that the lesser is blessed by the greater. Here, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. We can say that through Abraham

even Levi (who would [latter] receive tithes), had paid tithes, for he was still 'in the body' of his father when Melchizedek met him. Now, if perfection had come through the Levitical priesthood (under which the people received the law), what further need would there be for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek and not that of Aaron? And as the priesthood is being changed, there is also, by necessity, a change in the law as well. So our Lord, of whom these things were said, belongs to another tribe, one from which no one has served at the altar. It is clear indeed that our Lord has come from the tribe of Judah, about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. This is even more obvious if after the likeness of Melchizedek, another priest was to rise, one who was not made according to the law of a carnal commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life. As it is testified:

*You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 John (all)

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

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess

that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

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

The Praxis

Acts 18:9-21 (except end)

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

One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, "Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, "This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law."

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want

to be a judge of these matters." And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills."

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 95:7, 8, 9a

A Psalm of David.

Bring to the Lord, O families of nations,
bring to the Lord glory and honour;
bring to the Lord the glory due to His Name;
raise offerings and enter into His courts;
worship the Lord in His holy court.

Alleluia.

John 6:5-14

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

When Jesus looked up and saw that a great crowd was coming to him, he asked Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these [people] may eat?" But he said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, so that everyone might receive [even] a little!"

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves [of bread] and two fish, but what are these among so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now, there was much grass in that place; and so the men sat down,

about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, and having given thanks, he distributed [it] to the disciples, and the disciples to those who were sitting down; and [he did] likewise with the fish, as much as they desired. When they were filled, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces which are left over, so that nothing be lost!" And so, they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which Jesus had accomplished, they said, "This is truly the prophet who comes into the world!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of February or Ագր

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 16:16, 3a

A Psalm of David.

As for me, in righteousness I will behold Your face,
and will be satisfied when Your glory is revealed.
You tested my heart when You visited me in the night.
Alleluia.

John 5:39-47

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

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive

glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 88:53, 50

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen! Amen!

Where are Your mercies of old, O Lord,
which You swore to David by Your truth?

Alleluia.

John 12:44-50

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

Jesus cried aloud, "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me! Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the dark. If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I do not judge this person. For I came not to judge the world, but to save

the world! Whoever rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge [already]: the word that I spoke is what will judge such a person in the last day. For I did not speak from myself; instead, the Father who sent me has given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. And therefore what the

Father has told me is what I speak.”

Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 3:1-4:2

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

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus, who was faithful to the one who had appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house. Yet, Jesus is accounted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house! Every house is built by someone, but the one who built all things is God. Moses indeed was a faithful servant in all of God’s house, as a testimony for what would later on be spoken about. But Christ is faithful as a Son over his house and we are his house, if we firmly hold on to the confidence and pride of our hope until the end. Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says:

*Today if you will hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
as in the day of the trial in the wilderness,
where your fathers tested me by provoking me,
and saw my works for forty years.
Therefore, I was displeased with that generation,
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart,
they did not know my ways;’*

*As I swore in my wrath,
‘They will not enter into my rest.’*

Beware, brethren, for fear that one of you may have an evil and unbelieving heart that would fall away from the living God. Instead, encourage one another day by day, as long as it is called “today”, for fear that one of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold on to our first confidence until the end, as long as these words apply:

*Today if you will hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.*

But who is it that rebelled when they heard? Were they not all those that Moses had led out of Egypt? With whom was he displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest? Was it not to those who were disobedient? We see that they were not able to enter in because of [their] unbelief.

Let us beware, then! Since the promise remains, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also had the Good News preached to us, just as them,

but they gained nothing from the word they heard because those who

heard did not combine it with faith.

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

The Catholic Epistle

Jude 14-25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 20:7-16

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

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, "Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!"

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then,

he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we arrived in Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 88:2a and half of b, 7

A Psalm of David.

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth,
for who in the clouds can equal the Lord?

And who among the sons of God can be compared with the Lord?

Alleluia.

John 6:27-46

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

Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For the Father has sealed him – [even] God!”

As a result, they asked him, “What must we do, that we may accomplish the works of God?”

Jesus answered, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent!”

So they said to him, “What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see and believe you? What work do you accomplish? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness! As it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is what comes down out of heaven, and [it] gives life to the world.”

Then they said to him, “Lord, always give us this bread!”

Jesus told them, “I am the bread of life! The one who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet, you do not believe. All that the Father

gives me will come to me, and the one who is coming to me I will in no way reject. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but [to do] the will of the one who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me: that of all he has given me, I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and this one I will raise up on the last day.”

At this, the Jews began to murmur concerning him, because he had said, “I am the bread which came down out of heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

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

The Fourth Sunday of February or Ագր

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 91:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your works,
and I will rejoice at the works of Your hands.
How magnificent are Your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

Alleluia.

Luke 17:1-10

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

Jesus told the disciples, “It is impossible that no occasions of stumbling should come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for such a person to have a millstone hung around the neck and be thrown into the sea, rather than to cause any of these little ones to stumble. Be careful! If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and comes back seven times, saying: ‘I repent!’ you must forgive him.”

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

The Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be

uprooted and transplanted into the sea,’ and it would obey you!

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

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 88:12, 2

A Psalm of David.

The heavens belong to You, and the earth is Yours;
You founded the world and all that is in it.
I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;
I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth from generation to generation.
Alleluia.

Luke 17:11-19

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

As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, it happened that he was passing between [the borders of] Samaria and Galilee. As he entered into a certain village, ten men who were lepers met him, and they stood at a distance. They lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw them, he told them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And it happened that as they went, they were cleansed. One of

them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks; and this man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine [others]? Was no one found who came back to glorify God, except for this foreigner?" Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go your way. Your faith has healed you!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1-16

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

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the Church of God which is at Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who call upon the Name of

our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always give thanks to my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus; that in every-

thing you have been enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. And so, you lack no gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and opinion. As it is,

those who are from Chloe's household have informed me concerning you my brethren, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this: that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Kephas," or, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I do not know whether I baptized any other.)

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 1:13-21

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 8:5-13

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

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

But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city. He amazed the people of Samaria, claiming to be a great one, and all listened to him,

from the least to the greatest. They said, "This man is the power of God, of the great kind!" People listened to him because for a long time, he had amazed them with his sorceries. But when they believed Philip [who was] preaching the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and after his baptism, he followed Philip closely. Seeing that signs and great miracles were taking place, he was amazed.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 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 19:1-10

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

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was [about] to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!” He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. But when the people

saw it, they all grumbled, saying, “He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!”

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

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

The Fifth Sunday of February or Ապր

See The Second Sunday of February or Ապր, page 116.

May or Πάσχα

The Third Sunday of May or Πάσχα

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 78:13a, 9ab and the first half of c

A Psalm of David.

But we [are] Your people and the sheep of Your pasture,
Help us... for the [sake of the] glory of Your Name, O Lord,
and forgive our sins.

Alleluia.

Matthew 22:34-40

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

But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered together.

One of them, a lawyer, then asked him a question in order to test him. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your

heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. The second is likewise, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 73:12, 18 first half of 8

A Psalm of David.

Yet God is our eternal King;

He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Remember this, [Your creation].

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 11:1-10

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

Now, faith is the personal foundation of things hoped for, certainty about things that cannot be seen. By this, those of old obtained approval. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed by the word of God, so that what is visible was made from what is invisible.

By faith, Abel offered to God a sacrifice more excellent than Cain, and through this a testimony was given to him that he was righteous. God testified about his gifts, and

although Abel is now dead, he still speaks. By faith, Enoch was taken away in order not to see death: he was not found because God had translated him. He too had received a testimony that before his translation, he had been well-pleasing to God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen was moved

with godly fear. He prepared a ship to save his household and by this means he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and left the place which he was supposed to receive as his inheritance. He left, not knowing where he was going. By

faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. For Abraham looked for the city which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:15-5:4

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

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God

whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

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

The Praxis

Acts 13:44-52

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

The next Sabbath, almost the entire city was gathered to hear the word of God! But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul said with insults.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that God's word should be spoken to you first. But since you are rejecting it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has commanded us, saying:

*I have set you as a light for the Gentiles,
that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.'*

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of God, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Thus, the Lord's word was spread throughout the entire region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city. They instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their borders. So they shook off the dust of their feet against these people and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy with the Holy Spirit.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 67:27, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Bless God in the churches,

[bless] the Lord from the fountains of Israel!

Blessed be the Lord God;

blessed be the Lord from day to day!

Alleluia.

Luke 10:25-37

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

Behold, an expert in the law stood up and tested him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

The man answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live."

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him half-dead. By chance, a certain priest was going down that way. But when the priest saw him, he passed by on the other

side. In the same way, a Levite also came to the place, but when he saw the beaten man, he [also] passed by on the other side. Now, a certain Samaritan was traveling and arrived at the spot where the man was. When the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and wrapped his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He placed the man on his own animal and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he was leaving, he took out two denarii and gave them to the host, saying to him, "Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.' Now, which one of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

The lawyer replied, "The one who showed mercy on him!" Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fourth Sunday of May or ΠΑΨΑΝC

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 45:11, 12

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.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our protector.

Alleluia.

Matthew 22:41-46

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

Now while the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They answered, “[He is the son] of David.”

Jesus said to them, “How, then, does David, in the Spirit, call him ‘Lord’, saying:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?’

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 46:7, 8

A Psalm of David.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is King of all the earth;
sing praises with understanding.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside

the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-33a

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his

face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

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

The Catholic Epistle

3 John 1-8

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

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers. They have

borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

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

The Praxis

Acts 11:2-18

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

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

But Peter began to speak and explained things to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container like a great sheet was let down from heaven by four corners, descending and coming down as far as me. When I had looked intently at

it and examined [it], I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!' But a voice out of heaven answered me the second time, 'What God has cleansed, do not call unclean.' This was done three times, and everything was drawn back into heaven. At that very moment, three

men stood before the house where I was staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them, without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him, 'Send [messengers] to Joppa, and get Simon, who is called Peter. He will speak to you the words by which you will be saved, you and your entire household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them,

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

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance [that leads] to life!"

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 65:4ab, 1b, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Let all the earth worship You
and sing to You;
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Sing to His Name.
Alleluia.

Luke 4:1-13

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

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

God, command this stone to become bread!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and,

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

In reply, Jesus said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

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

The Fifth Sunday of May or ΠΑΨΑΝC

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 92:3, 4a

A Psalm of David.

The rivers have raised themselves up, O Lord,
the rivers have lifted up their voices;
[the rivers lift up their voices, more than]
the voices of their many waters.

Alleluia.

Matthew 14:15-21

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

When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This place is deserted, and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away so that they

may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

They replied, "We only have here five loaves and two fish!"

Jesus said, "Bring them to me." Having instructed the crowds to sit down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed, broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the

disciples distributed it to the multitudes. And so, everyone ate and was satisfied. His disciples gathered up twelve baskets full of what remained left over from the broken pieces. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

96:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Light has dawned for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous,
and confess [Him] at the remembrance of His holiness.

Alleluia.

Mark 6:35-44

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

When it was late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, "This place is deserted and it is late in the day. Send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy bread, for they have nothing to eat."

But Jesus answered them, "You give them something to eat!"

They asked him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give them something to eat?"

Jesus replied, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see."

When they had found out, they said, "Five loaves and two fish."

Jesus gave them instructions that everyone should sit down in groups on the green grass, and people sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves. He then gave it to his disciples to set before the people, and he distributed the two fish among them all. Everyone ate and was satisfied, and the disciples collected twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who ate the loaves numbered about five thousand men. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:18-25

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

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord." Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers.

Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person's heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 5:1-8

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud,

cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts' content as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous one who does not resist you.

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 24:1-9

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

Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, came down with a group of presbyters and a professional speaker named Tertullus, and they informed the governor of their charges against Paul. Paul was then called in and Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We have enjoyed much peace under you, and we see that excellent reforms are being carried out for this nation. Most Excellent Felix, we acknowledge this always and everywhere, with utmost gratitude. But, that I may not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. As it is, we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections

among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him, desiring to judge him according to our own laws. However, the commanding officer, Lysias, arrived and with much violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself, you will be able to verify for yourself the truth of our accusations.”

The Jews also joined in the deposition, affirming that these things were true.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 142:6, 7ab

A Psalm of David.

I spread forth my hands to You;
my soul thirsts for You like a parched land. *(Pause)*
Hear me quickly, O Lord:
my spirit has failed.
Alleluia.

Luke 9:12-17

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

Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place."

But Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." (For they were about five thousand men).

Jesus then said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." They did so, and made them all sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Everybody ate, and all were satisfied. The disciples gathered up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. *Glory be to God forever.*

June or ΠΑΩΝΕ

The First Sunday of June or ΠΑΩΝΕ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 9:11

A Psalm of David.

Let those who know Your Name put their hope in You,
for You have never forsaken those who seek You, O Lord.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:1-13

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

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

Peter then said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you want, let us make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

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

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were very afraid. Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up, and do not be afraid." Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this order, "Do not tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

His disciples asked him, "Why then is it that the scribes say that Elias must come first?"

Jesus answered them, "Elias indeed comes first, and he will restore all things. But I tell you that Elias has already come, and they did not recognize him. Instead, they did to him whatever they wanted to.

Likewise, the Son of Man will also suffer at their hands.” Then, the disciples understood that he was

speaking about John the Baptist. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 66:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,
and may He manifest His face upon us,
and have mercy upon us, (*Pause*)
that we may know Your way upon the earth,
[and] Your salvation among all nations.
Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, this is my message for you.”

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!”

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the

governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry." And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them

and said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 15:13-29

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

Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself am also convinced about you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct others. But I write all the more boldly to you, as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I should serve as a priest the Good News of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I have my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God because I will not dare to speak of anything except of what Christ has worked through me. This is for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God's

Spirit. And so, from Jerusalem, and as far as Illyricum, I have fully preached the Good News of Christ. Yes, I have made it my goal to preach the Good News where Christ was not already called upon, in order not to build on someone else's foundation. But, as it is written:

Those to whom no tidings of him came will see.

Those who have not heard will understand.

For this reason, I was hindered many times from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any place in these regions and since I had for many years a longing to come to you, I [write that I] will come to you whenever I travel to Spain, in order to be helped on my way there by you, and first of all to enjoy your company for a while. But now, I want you to know that I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints. It has been

the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. Yes, it has been their good pleasure, as they are in debt to them. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, they owe it to them to be of

service in material things. After I accomplish this and deliver this harvest to them, I will go to Spain by your way. I know that, when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the Good News of Christ.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:1-9

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 12:25-13:12

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

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, and they also took with them John whose other name was Mark.

Now, in the Church that was at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were liturgizing to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them on their way. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues, with John as their attendant. After going through the island to Paphos, they encountered a certain sorcerer, a false

prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Being an intelligent man, the proconsul called Barnabas and Saul in order to hear the word of God. However, Elymas the sorcerer (for such is his name when translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul (who is also called Paul), fixed his eyes on him and said, "You are full of all [kinds of] deceit and cunning, you son of the devil and enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a season!"

At once, mist and darkness fell upon Elymas, and he groped around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had taken place, he believed and was amazed by the teaching of the Lord.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 142:10b, 8

A Psalm of David.

Your good Spirit will guide me to the land of uprightness.
Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for I have hoped in You.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:1-13

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

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

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

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

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend. You go to this friend’s house at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread! A friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have

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

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

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if a son asks for a fish, the father will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if a son asks for an egg, the father will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being

evil, know how to give good gifts to
your children, how much more will
your heavenly Father give the Holy

Spirit to those who ask him!” *Glory be to
God forever.*

The Second Sunday of June or Πάωνε

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 15:7, 8

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord Who makes me to understand,
so that even at night my heart instructs me.
I see the Lord before me continually,
for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

Alleluia.

Luke 4:38-41

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

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with

various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 33:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise will be continually in my mouth.
My soul will be praised in the Lord;
let the meek hear and be glad.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be

amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

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

However, we [do] speak wisdom among those who are full grown; yet it is a wisdom 'not of

this world', nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. Instead, we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that was hidden, which God had foreordained before the ages for our glory, [a wisdom] which none of the rulers of this world recognized. For if they had recognized this wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory! But as it is written:

Things which an eye did not see, and an ear did not hear,

Which did not enter into the heart of man,

These God has prepared for those who love him.

But God revealed these things to us through the Spirit, because the Spirit searches all things, yes, [even] the deep things of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? Likewise, no one truly comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. However, we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we might know the

things that were freely given to us by God. These are the things we proclaim, not in words which human wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with [other] spiritual things. Now, the natural person does not receive the things of God's Spirit because for they are foolishness to him, and such a person cannot know

these things because they are spiritually discerned. On the other hand, the spiritual person discerns all things and is not subject to mere human opinions. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ!

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:1-8

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 14:8-22

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

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother's womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" They called Barnabas "Jupiter," and Paul "Mercury," because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, "Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the

sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself without witness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that "we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God."

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 12:7, 6

A Psalm of David.

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

Luke 5:17-26

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

It happened on one of those days, that Jesus was teaching; and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every village of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was with him to heal the people. Behold, men brought a paralyzed man on a cot, and they sought to bring him in to lay before Jesus. Not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up to the housetop and let him down through the tiles with his cot, right in the center, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, he said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

The scribes and the Pharisees began to wonder, saying, "Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, answered them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts in such a way? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you;' or to say, 'Arise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (he said to the paralyzed man), "I tell you, arise, and take up your cot, and go to your house."

Immediately, the man rose up before them and took up what he was laying on, and departed to his house, glorifying God. Amazement took hold of all, and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"
Glory be to God forever.

The Third Sunday of June or ΠΑΩΝΕ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 6:2, 37:16

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, rebuke me[, but] not in Your anger;
and chasten me[, but] not in Your wrath.
For in You, O Lord, I hope;
You will hear me, O Lord my God.

Alleluia.

Matthew 7:7-12

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

Ask, and it will be given you! Seek, and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened for you! For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To the one who knocks it will be opened. Who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a snake? If you then

who are evil [still] know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Therefore, whatever you desire other people to do for you, you shall also do for them! This is the law and the prophets. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 37:22, 23

A Psalm of David.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me.
Come to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1-16

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

And so, let everyone think of us as Christ's servants, and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful! But as far as I am concerned, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or according to human judgment. Yes, I do not [even] judge my own self, for I know nothing against myself. Yet, I am not justified by this, but the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, [that

is] until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of every heart. Then, each person will receive due praise from God.

Brethren, I have figuratively applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that in us you might learn the meaning of 'not beyond the things which are written', so that none of you will be puffed up against another. Indeed, who makes you different? And what do you have

that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [But] you are already filled! You have already become rich and you have come to rule apart from us! Yes, and I wish that you would really be rulers, so that we also might reign with you. I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked,

beaten and [we] wander from place to place! We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 1:19-2:9

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

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

But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you. They will

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

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down to Tartarus and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for

judgment. He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah (a preacher of righteousness) with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. He also turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction and made them an example to those who would lead ungodly lives. He delivered the righteous Lot who was very distressed by the lustful behavior of these

wicked people; that righteous man was living among them and was tormented every day in his righteous soul when he saw and heard lawless deeds. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to hold the wicked for their punishment on the day of judgment.

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

The Praxis

Acts 17:1-12

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

After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul gave them his attention and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. He explained and showed that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ."

Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, as a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the unconvinced Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring

them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city officials, shouting, "These people who have turned the world upside down have also come here, and Jason has received them! All of them act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" The multitude and the city officials were troubled when they heard these things. After receiving a bond from Jason and the others, they let them go.

At once, the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now, the Bereans were more open-minded than the people in

Thessalonica: they received the word with great eagerness of the mind and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were true. As a result, many of them believed, as well

as some Greek women of high standing, and a fair number of Greek men.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 60:6, 9

A Psalm of David.

For You, O God, hear my prayers;
You give an inheritance
to those who fear Your Name.

So I will sing praise to Your Name forever and ever,
that I may perform my vows from day to day.

Alleluia.

Matthew 12:22-37

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.

Then, a person possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him. Jesus healed him, so that the blind and mute man was now able to speak and to see. The crowds were amazed and exclaimed, "Can this be the son of David?" 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. 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.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fourth Sunday of June or ΠΑΩΝΕ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 83:9, 5

A Psalm of David.

O Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;
they will praise You forever and ever.
Alleluia.

Matthew 5:34-48

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

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.

You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you: do not resist one who is evil, but to whoever strikes you on your right cheek,

present the other cheek as well. If anyone sues you to take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him for two. Give to whoever asks you, and do not deny whoever desires to borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you! Pray for those who mistreat you and

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

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 60:6, 9

A Psalm of David.

For You, O God, hear my prayers;

You give an inheritance
to those who fear Your Name.

So I will sing praise to Your Name forever and ever,
that I may perform my vows from day to day.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had

been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around

and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 4:2-18

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

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

know how to properly answer those who have questions.

All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, a faithful servant and fellow-slave in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will

tell you everything that is happening here. Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received instructions, “if he comes to you, receive him”), and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow-workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, and they have been my consolation.

Epaphras (who is one of you), a servant of Christ, salutes you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you may stand perfect and fulfill in all things the will of God. I can testify about him: that he has devotion to you, and also to those

in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea; and also Nymphas, along with the Church which meets in her house. When this letter has been read among you, please have it also read in the Church of the Laodiceans; and also read the letter from Laodicea. Tell Archippus this, “Be mindful of the ministry which you have received in the Lord, and fulfill it.”

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 5:9-20

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

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

But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven or earth, nor by any other oath. Instead, let your “yes” be “yes,” and your

“no,” “no;” so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

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

powerfully effective! Elias was a man with a nature like ours, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months! When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

Brethren, if someone among you wander from the truth and is brought

back by another, know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

The Praxis

Acts 18:1-11

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

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There, he met a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race. He and his wife Priscilla had recently arrived from Italy because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and since he practiced the same trade (they were tent makers), he lived and worked with them. Every Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was dedicated to preaching, bearing witness to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Then, when the Jews opposed Paul and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and told them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

He departed and went into the house of a man named Titus Justus, a [Gentile] devoted to God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Now, Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his entire household; and many Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized. One night, the Lord said to Paul by a vision, "Do not be afraid! Speak out and do not be silent. I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among the people of Corinth.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 68:33b, 34a, 31

A Psalm of David.

Seek God, and your soul shall live,
for the Lord hears the poor,
I will praise the Name of God with a song;
I will magnify Him with praise.

Alleluia.

Luke 6:27-38

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

But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other [cheek]. If someone takes away your cloak, do not refuse your coat also. Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

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

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

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

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

The Fifth Sunday of June or Πάωνε

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Παῦλoς, page 142.

July or ЄПНП

The First Sunday of July or ЄПНП

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 19:7ab, 10

A Psalm of David.

Now I know that the Lord has saved His Christ;
He will hear Him from His holy heaven,
O Lord, save Your king,
and hear us when we call upon You.

Alleluia.

Luke 9:1-6

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

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

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

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

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 30:24ab, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

Love the Lord, all you His Saints,
for the Lord preserves the faithful.
How great is Your infinite goodness, O Lord,
which You have hidden for those who fear You.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, this is my message for you."

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they

went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, "Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry." And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus

had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

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

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife – even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with

hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a

reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might

gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:1-12

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

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are living as exiles, scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, so that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood. Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according

to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 5:12-21

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

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

Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, "Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak,

and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of

the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 88:8

A Psalm of David.

God is glorified in the council of saints,
great and awesome above all those around Him.
Alleluia.

Luke 10:1-20

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

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

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

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they

would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But in the judgment, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. You, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to hades! Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The seventy[-two] returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!”

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

The Second Sunday of July or ЄПНП

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 127:1, 5

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
who walk in His ways.
May the Lord bless you from Zion,
And may you see the joys of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Alleluia.

Luke 16:1-18

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

Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. He called his manager and told him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an

accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be [my] steward.’

The manager said within himself, ‘What will I do, seeing that my lord is taking away the management position from me? I do not have strength to dig! I am ashamed to beg! I know

what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ Calling each one of his lord’s debtors to him, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe to my lord?’ The man replied, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty.’ Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ That one said, ‘A hundred cors of wheat.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

His master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted wisely, for the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light in [dealing with] their own kind. I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails you, you may be received into the eternal dwellings. Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much. Whoever is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you

with true riches? If you have not been faithful in what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other; or else he will be attached to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they scoffed at him. Jesus told them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of people, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were [proclaimed] until John [came]. Since then, the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. Yet, it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tiny stroke of a pen in the law to fall [out]. Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another [woman] commits adultery; and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 40:2, 3ab

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy;
the Lord will deliver him in an evil day.
The Lord will guard him and give him life,
and will bless him on the earth.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be

amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 1:1-24

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

Paul, an apostle (sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, so that he might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - to whom be the glory unto ages of ages! Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ in order to embrace a different "Good News" - and there is no other "Good News"!

Yet, there are some who disturb you and want to pervert the Good News of Christ. Now, even if ourselves or an angel from heaven should preach to you any "Good News" that is not what we preached to you, let such a one be accursed! We have said it before and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you any other "Good News" than what you received, let such a one be accursed! I am now seeking to please God or people? I am striving to please human beings? But if I was still trying to please men, then I would not be a servant of Christ!

As regards the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you,

brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God, (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not

go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother'. Now, regarding the things which I write to you, you can see that I am not lying before God. After that, I visited the districts of Syria and Cilicia. My face was still unknown to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ; they only heard, "The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy!" And they glorified God in me.

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

The Catholic Epistle

Jude 14-25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 5:19-23

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

But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, “Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life.”

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of

the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 118:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed are the blameless in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are they who search out His testimonies;
They will seek Him with their whole heart.
Alleluia.

Matthew 18:1-9

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

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to himself and set him in their midst. He then said, "Amen, I tell you that unless you change and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives such a little child in my Name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person that a huge millstone be hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! Such occasions are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom the occasion does come! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you! It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled rather than to have two hands or two feet and yet be cast into eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than to be cast into the Gehenna of fire having two eyes. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of July or ΕΠΗΠ

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 51:11cd, 10cd

A Psalm of David.

I will wait on Your Name,
for it is good in the sight of Your saints.
I hope in the mercy of God
Forever and unto the age of ages.

Alleluia.

Luke 14:7-15

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

When Jesus noticed how people chose the best seats, he told the guest a parable, saying, "When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit in the best seat. It could be that someone more honorable than you might have been invited by the host, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, 'Make room for this person.' Then, with shame, you would proceed to take the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. And so, when the host comes, he may tell you, 'Friend, move up higher!' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be

humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus also said to the one who had invited him, "When you make a dinner or a supper, do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen or rich neighbors because they might return the favor and pay you back. Instead, when you give a feast, ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind [to come]. Then, you will be blessed, because they do not have the means to pay you back. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous."

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will feast in the Kingdom of God!"
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 134:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Name of the Lord,
O servants [of the Lord]; praise [Him],
you who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 6:3-16

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

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound

teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the doctrine of godliness,

such a person is conceited, ignorant, obsessed with arguments, controversies and disputes over words. These things result in envy, conflict, insults, evil suspicions, constant antagonism between people whose minds are corrupt and devoid of truth, people who treat religion as a means of gain. Withdraw yourself from such people.

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 3:1-12

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

Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey

us, and thus, we guide their whole body. Or consider the ships: although they are very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder as the pilot desires. Likewise, the tongue is a little member but it boasts great things! See how a small fire can

spread to a large forest! The tongue is also a fire! Among all our members, the tongue is a world of iniquity which defiles the whole body. It sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by the fires of hell. Every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind. But nobody can tame the tongue! It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the image of

God. From the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, this should not be! Does a spring pour forth fresh and salty water from the same opening? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or [can] a vine [produce] figs? Likewise, salt water cannot produce fresh water.

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

The Praxis

Acts 18:12-23

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

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, "This man convinces people to worship God in opposition to the law."

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were complaining about a matter of wrongdoing or about a wicked crime, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you. However, if these are questions about words and names and your own law, deal with it yourselves, for I do not want to be a judge of these matters." And he had them removed from the court.

Then, they turned on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but Gallio did not care about any of these things.

After this, Paul stayed some time longer. He then took his leave of the brethren and set sail from Corinth to Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, he shaved his head on account of a vow which he had made. Arriving in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined. However, taking his leave of them, he saying, "I must by all means keep this coming

feast in Jerusalem, but I will come back to you if God wills.” He then set sail from Ephesus.

After landing at Caesarea, he went to greet the Church, and then traveled down to Antioch. Having spent some

time there, he departed and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, strengthening all the disciples.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 144:18

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways,
and holy in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him,
to all who call on Him in truth.

Alleluia.

Luke 9:10-17

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

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

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

But the crowd perceived this and followed him. Jesus welcomed them, spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and cured those who needed healing. Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the people away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and get food, for we are here in a deserted place.”

But Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” (For they were about five thousand men).

Jesus then said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” They did so, and made them all sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Everybody ate, and all were satisfied. The disciples gathered

up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fourth Sunday of July or ЄПНП

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 58:10b, 11a, 18a

A Psalm of David.

You, O God, are my protector.

My God—His mercy will go before me;

You are my helper, I will sing to You.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:1-10

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

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

worthy for you to come under my roof. Therefore, I did not even think myself worthy to come to you. But [only] say the word and my servant will be healed. For I am also a man placed under authority, and I have soldiers under my command. I tell this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him. Turning around, he said to the multitude who followed him, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel!” And the messengers, returning to the house, found that the servant who

had been sick was [now] well. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 85:12, 13 (except end)

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
And I will glorify Your Name forever,
for Your mercy towards me is great,
and You have rescued my soul.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the

tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my

Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Philippians 1:27-2:11

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

[In the meantime], let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear this about your condition: that you stand firm in one spirit, striving with one soul for the faith of the Good News. Do not be terrified by your opponents. This will be for them evidence of destruction, but to you, of salvation from God. For the sake of Christ, you have been granted the privilege not only to believe in him but also to suffer on his behalf, and so you are engaged in the same battle which you saw me fight and that you hear that I am [still] fighting.

Therefore, if there is any exhortation in Christ, any consolation of love, any communion of the Spirit, any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through rivalry or conceit,

but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Do not just look after you own selfish interests but each one of you should consider the interests of others.

Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25b-2:10

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

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

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

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

Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.

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

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

and:

a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 19:11-22

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

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

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

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

fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many also of those who had believed came forward to confess and reveal their [evil] deeds. Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. Their price was counted and found to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. In this way, the word of the Lord was growing and becoming powerful.

Now, after these things had ended and after passing through Macedonia and Achaia, Paul firmly decided to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After going there, I must also see Rome!”

Having sent into Macedonia two of his attendants, Timothy and Erastus, Paul stayed in Asia for a while longer.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 39:6abcd, 17cd

A Psalm of David.

Many are Your works, O Lord my God,
the wondrous things You have made.
There is no one who can be likened to You
in Your thoughts.
and let those who love Your salvation
say continually, “The Lord be magnified!”
Alleluia.

John 11:1-45

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

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha. It was that [same] Mary who had anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair and whose brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the sisters sent [word] to Jesus, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick!" But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." Now, Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. Yet, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed two days in the place where he was. After this, he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again."

The disciples told him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you are going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Someone who walks in the day does not stumble because he sees the light of this world. But someone who walks in the night will stumble because the light is not in him." He said these things, and then added, "Our friend, Lazarus, has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may awake him out of sleep."

At this, the disciples said, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."

Now, Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in sleep. And so, Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe. But, let us go to him."

Then Thomas (who is called Didymus) said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us go also, so that we may die with him."

And so, when Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days already. Now, Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. Many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary stayed in the house.

Therefore, Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died! Even now, I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life! The one who believes in me, even though he dies, will live! Whoever lives and believes

in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She answered, “Yes, Lord! I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who comes into the world.”

When she had said this, she went away, and called her sister Mary in private, saying, “The Teacher is here, and [he] is calling you.”

When Mary heard this, she arose quickly and went to him. Now, Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was in the place where Martha had met him. Then the Jews who were with Mary in the house consoling her saw that she got up quickly and went out. They followed her because they thought, “she is going to the tomb to weep there.” Therefore, when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died!”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her [also] weeping, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They told him, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus wept.

At this, the Jews said, “See how much affection he had for Lazarus!” Some of them said, “Could not the

one who opened the eyes of the man who was blind have also kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus therefore, being again deeply moved, came to the tomb. Now, it was a cave, and a stone was placed against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days!”

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see God’s glory?”

And so, they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, “Father, I thank you that you have listened to me. I know that you always listen to me, but because of the multitude that stands around, I said this, so that they may believe that you sent me.” After saying this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Then, he who was dead came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth.

Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

As a result, many of the Jews who had come to Mary and had seen what Jesus had accomplished believed in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fifth Sunday of July or ΕΠΗΠ

See The Fifth Sunday of May or Παυλιν, page 142.

August or Ὑεσopη and Κοvχι ἡὰβοτ (The Little Month)

The First Sunday of August or Ὑεσopη and Κοvχι ἡὰβοτ (The Little Month)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 32:22

A Psalm of David.

May Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
as we hope in You.

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His mercy.

Alleluia.

Mark 6:45-56

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

At once, he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself sent the crowd away. After he had taken leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray.

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on the shore. Seeing the disciples hard pressed in their rowing as the wind was against them, he came to them when it was about the fourth watch of the night. He walked on the sea and would have passed by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost and cried out. They all saw him

and were troubled, but immediately, Jesus spoke with them, and said, "Rejoice! It is I! Do not be afraid!" He got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. They were utterly astonished and marveled greatly because they had not understood about the [miracle of the] loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

After crossing over, they landed at Gennesaret and moored the boat to the shore. When they came out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him. They swarmed that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard that he was. Wherever he entered, into

villages, cities, or into the country,
people laid the sick in the marketplaces
and begged him to be able to touch

just the fringe of his garment; and as
many as touched him were made well.
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 32:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
for He is our helper and protector;
For our heart rejoices in Him,
and we hope in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-20

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

After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came to roll away the stone from the door, and [the angel] sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Out of fear, the guards trembled and became as dead. The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, this is my message for you."

They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to report it to his disciples. As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"

They came and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell my brethren that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the presbyters in order to take counsel, they gave the soldiers a large amount of silver, with these words, "Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him

and make you free of worry.” And so, they took the money and did as they were told. This story is widespread among the Jews until this day.

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority has been

given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

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

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have not I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If to others, I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who question me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Do we not have the right to take along a sister – a wife – even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Kephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who are obliged to work? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and does not drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to human ways? Does not the law say the same thing as well? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it for the oxen that God shows cares, or does

he say these things for our benefit? Yes, it was written for us, because whoever plows should plow with hope, and whoever threshes with hope should have a share of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it [such] a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others partake of this right over you, should we not even more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we bear all things, so that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Do you not know that the ministers in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar? Even so, the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News. But I have used none of these things, and I do not write these things so that it may be done so in my case. As it is, I would rather die than to see anyone

make my boasting void! Indeed, if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about! This necessity is placed on me: woe unto me, if I do not preach the Good News! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if it is not of my own will, then I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the Gospel, I may present the Good News of Christ for free, in order not to abuse my authority in the Good News.

For although I was free from all, I brought myself in obedience to all, so that I might gain even more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jews. To those who are under the law, [I became] as under the law, so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without law, [I became] as one without law (not being without law toward God, but under law

toward Christ), so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now, I do this for the sake of the Good News, so that I may be a joint partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race run with everyone else, but only one receives the prize? Run like that, in order to win! Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now, they do it in order to receive a corruptible crown, but we [seek] an incorruptible crown. This is how I run, not without certainty. This is how I fight, not beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into submission, in fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:8-15

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

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

Whoever would love life,

*and see good days,
should keep his tongue from evil,
and his lips from speaking deceit.
Let him turn away from evil, and do good.
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears open to their prayer;*

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be troubled." Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts* and always be

ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

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

**Kitchener ends here*

Acts 19:23-41

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

About that time, there arose a serious disturbance concerning the Way. A certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought much business to the craftsmen. He held a meeting with craftsmen of the same occupation and said, "Men, you know that we obtain our wealth through this business. As you can see and hear, not in Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has convinced and turned away many people, saying that our gods are no gods and that they are made with [human] hands. Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its credit, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis whom all Asia and the world revere will be considered as nothing, and that her majesty will be destroyed!"

When they heard this, they were filled with anger, and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The

whole city was filled with confusion. The people rushed with one accord into the theater and arrested Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul desired to enter in to [speak to] the people, the disciples did not allow him. Some of the officials of the province who were his friends sent word to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. Some people shouted one thing, and some another as the assembly was in turmoil. Most of them did not [even] know why they had come together. The Jews pushed Alexander and he was brought out of the multitude. He motioned his hand in order to present a defense to the people, but when they realized that he was a Jew, they all with one voice shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" And they did this for about two hours.

When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "Men of

Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Since these things cannot be denied, you should be quiet, and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of your goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are open,

and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot since there was no reason [for it]. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." After speaking these words, he dismissed the assembly.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 79:15, 16a

A Psalm of David.

O God of hosts, return us;
look from heaven, and behold,
and visit this vine,
which Your right hand has planted, and restore it.
Alleluia.

Luke 20:9-19

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

He began to tell the people this parable. "A certain man planted a vineyard and rented it out to some farmers, and went into another country for a long time. At the proper season, he sent a servant to the farmers to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty. The owner then sent yet

another servant, and they also beat him, treated him with contempt, and sent him away empty. The owner sent yet a third [servant], and they also wounded him, and threw him out. Then, the lord of the vineyard thought, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son! It may be that seeing him, they will respect him.'

But when the farmers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying: 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' So, they threw the son out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now, what will the lord of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy these farmers, and he will give the vineyard to others."

When the people heard this, they exclaimed, "May it never be!" But Jesus looked at them, and said, "Then what is this that is written:

*'The stone which the builders rejected,
Has become the chief cornerstone?'
Everyone who falls on that stone will
be broken to pieces,
and it will crush to dust whoever it
falls on.*

The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to lay hands on him that very hour, but they feared the people because they knew that he had spoken this parable against them.
Glory be to God forever.

The Second Sunday of August or Ὡσοφῃ and Κοῦρι Νάβου (The Little Month)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:145a, 146

A Psalm of David.

I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord;
I cry to You; save me,
and I will keep Your testimonies.

Alleluia.

Luke 18:9-17

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

Jesus also spoke this parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness and who despised everyone else.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and

the other was a Publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed by himself, like this: 'God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men, dishonest, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week,

I give tithes of all that I earn.’ But the tax collector, standing far aside, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he would beat his breast, saying: ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man, rather than the other, went down to his house justified. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

People were also bringing their infants to him, so that Jesus might

touch them. But when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus summoned his disciples and told them, “Allow the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I tell you: whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will in no way enter into it.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 88:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth from generation to generation.

For You said, “Mercy shall be built up forever.

Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were

amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.’”

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them.

They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 6:1-23

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

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise: “that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”

Fathers, do not drive your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, with deep loyalty, as to Christ. Do not serve only when eyes are on you in order to please human masters, but as servants of Christ. Accomplish God’s will from the heart; serve with a good attitude, as if you were serving the Lord and not men. Know that for whatever good we do, we shall receive the same in return from the Lord, no matter if we are slave or free.

You masters, do likewise to them: do not resort to threats but recognize that you both have the same Master in heaven, and there is no discrimination with him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil’s tactics. For our struggle is not against

flesh and blood but against the principalities, powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having fitted your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is what God has said.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with intercessions and requests; never get tired of this and persevere in your requests for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that I may be given an opportunity to proclaim with boldness the mystery of the Good News. For this cause, I am an ambassador in chains; so pray that I may proclaim it boldly, as I should.

I also want you to know my affairs, how I am doing. Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant

in the Lord, will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know about our condition and to comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 20:1-12

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

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together

to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, "Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!"

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 88:6, 16

A Psalm of David.

The heavens will confess Your wonders, O Lord,
indeed, Your truth in the Church of the Saints.
Blessed are the people who know the festal shout;
They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face.

Alleluia.

Luke 5:27-39

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

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

Levi left everything, got up and began to follow Jesus. He made a great feast for him in his house. There was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining with them. The scribes and the Pharisees murmured against Jesus' disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

They asked him, "Why do John's disciples often fast and pray, like also the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink?"

Jesus said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them. Then they will fast in those days." He also told them a parable: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old garment, or else he will tear the new, and also the piece from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins, or else the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved. No man having drunk old wine immediately desires new, for he says, 'The old is better!'" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of August or Ὑεσoph and Κοῦχι ἡὰβοτ (The Little Month)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 5:8abc, 12ab

A Psalm of David.

But as for me, in Your abundant mercy
I will enter Your house;
I will bow down towards Your holy temple.
Let all who hope in You be glad;
they will rejoice forever.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:27-36

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

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!"

But Jesus said, "Yes and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

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.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 14:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle,
or who will live on Your holy mountain?
He who walks blamelessly, and works righteousness,
who speaks truth in his heart.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?”

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 16:17-20

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

Now I beg you, brethren, watch out for those who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Stay away from them! Such people do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

Indeed, your obedience has become known to all and I rejoice over you. I desire to have you wise in what is good, but innocent in what is evil. And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:18-3:7

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

Servants, be in subjection to your masters with full reverence, not only to the good and kind but also to the wicked. For it is worthy of praise if someone endures pain and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. But what glory is there if when you sin, you patiently endure a beating? But if you patiently endure suffering when you do good, this is worthy of praise with God. You were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that you should follow in his steps. Yet he did not sin, “neither was deceit found in his mouth” and when he was cursed, he did not curse back. When he suffered, he did not threaten

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

In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. This way, even if they do not obey the word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, seeing your pure and reverent attitude. Your beauty should not only consist in external ornaments and hairstyles, golden jewelry or fine

clothing. Instead, let it be in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. This is how the holy women of the past hoped in God and also adorned themselves. They were submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “lord”. You are now her children if you do what is good and do not give way to fear.

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to knowledge, giving them honor as to the weaker vessel and also as joint-heirs of the grace of life. Thus your prayers will not be hindered.

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

The Praxis

Acts 21:8-14

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

The following day, we, Paul’s companions, left and arrived in Caesarea.

We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. As we stayed there for a few days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming to us and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit: ‘Likewise, in Jerusalem, the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt and they will

deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

When we heard these things, both we and the disciples who lived there begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

Since he would not be persuaded, we became silent, except to say, “The Lord’s will be done!”

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 27:2a, 7a, 6

A Psalm of David.

Hear, O Lord, the cry of my supplication.
The Lord is my helper and my protector;
blessed be the Lord, for He has heard
the voice of my supplication.

Alleluia.

Mark 3:22-35

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

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

Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but has [come to] an end. But no one can enter into the house of a strong man to plunder it, unless he first binds the strong man. Then he will plunder his house. Amen, all human sins will be forgiven, and all the blasphemies ever uttered; but whoever blasphemes

against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”. [He spoke these words] because they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

His mother and his brothers came and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A large group was sitting around him, and they told him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you.”

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

The Fourth Sunday of August or Уѣсoph and Κοῤχι ἡὰβοτ (The Little Month)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:169a, 170b, 176

A Psalm of David.

Let my supplication come before You, O Lord;
deliver me according to Your sayings.
I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,
for I have not forgotten Your commandments.

Alleluia.

Luke 17:20-37

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

Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them, "The Kingdom of God does not come with observation! Neither will people say, 'Look, here!' or, 'Look, there!' for behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst."

Jesus told the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. People will tell you, 'Look, here!' or 'Look, there!' Do not go away or follow [them], for as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first, he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it happened in the days of Noah, so will

it be in the days of the Son of Man. People ate, drank, got married, were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered into the ship; and the flood came, destroying them all. Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot: people ate, drank, bought, sold, planted and built. But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from the sky which destroyed them all. It will be the same in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, whoever is on the housetop, [having] his goods in the house, should not go down to take them away! Likewise, whoever is in the field should not return. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will pre-

serve it. I tell you that in that night, there will be two people in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. There will be two grinding grain together. One will be taken, and the other will be left.” Two will be in

the field: one will be taken, and the other left.

In reply, the disciples asked him, “Where, Lord?”

He said to them, “Where the body is, there the eagles will also be assembled.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 89:1, 2ab

A Psalm of David.

Lord, You have been our refuge
from generation to generation,
before the mountains came to be made
or the earth and the world were formed.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!”

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered

into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at

the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13

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

For this reason, we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth: the word of God. And it is at work in you who believe! For you, brethren, became imitators of the Churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews. They killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and they drove us out. Their conduct does not please God, and makes them the enemies of the entire human race as they want to prevent us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. They are still bringing their sins to full

measure, but the wrath is finally coming upon them.

Brethren, although we were deprived of your presence for a short time, (yet not in affection), we tried even harder to see you face to face with great eagerness, because we wanted to come to you. Certainly, I, Paul, wanted to come again and again - but Satan prevented us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes? For you are our glory and our joy!

Therefore, when we could not stand it any longer, we thought that it would be good to be alone in Athens and to send Timothy, our brother and God's minister in the Good News of Christ, so that he might confirm and

comfort you in your faith and so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you know that these must come our way. This is certain, and when we were with you, we told you in advance that we must suffer affliction. And this is what happened, as you know. For this reason, when I could not stand it any longer, I sent him so that I might know your faith, fearing that in some way the tempter may have tempted you, so that our labor would have been in vain. But Timothy came back from his visit to you and brought us glad news of your faith and love. He mentioned your abiding good memories of us as well as your longing to see us even as we also long to see you. Through all this, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our distress and affliction

through your faith. Now we have revived, since you stand fast in the Lord! What thanksgiving can we give back to God for you, for all the joy you give us to experience before our God. Yes, night and day, I pray intensely so that we may see you again and make perfect what is lacking in your faith. Now, may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. May the Lord grant you to increase and overflow in love one for each other and for everyone, even as we also do for you. And may he establish your hearts, blameless in holiness before our God and Father even to end, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

The Catholic Epistle

James 4:7-5:5

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

Therefore, submit yourselves to God, but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we will go into this city, spend a year there, do business and

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

Listen, you who are rich: weep and howl for the miseries that are coming on you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are eaten by moths. Your gold and silver are rusted and

their rust will be a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who worked in your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out! The cries of those who reaped [for you] have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth, you have lived in luxury and taken your pleasure. You have eaten your hearts’ content as in a day of slaughter.

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

The Praxis

Acts 11:19-30

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

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

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

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

Now, in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named

Agabus, stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would take place all over the world, and it happened in the days of Claudius. According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined

to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 88:12, 13a, 14b

A Psalm of David.

The heavens belong to You, and the earth is Yours;

You founded the world and all that is in it.

You created the north and the seas;

let Your hand be strong, let Your right hand be exalted.

Alleluia.

Mark 13:3-37

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.

As he sat on the Mount of Olives facing the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him in private, “Tell us, when will these things take place? What is the sign that these things are all about to be fulfilled?”

Then Jesus began to tell them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my Name, saying: ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Those things must take place, but the end is not [there] yet. Indeed, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom! There will be earthquakes in various places, as well as famines and troubles. These things are [only] the beginning of birth pains.

But be on your guard, for people will hand you over to the courts. You will be beaten in the synagogues, you will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. When they take you away and arrest you, do not worry in advance. Do not think ahead about what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it

is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his [own] child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved. But when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing where it should not stand (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains. Then whoever is on the housetop should not go down or enter in to take anything out of the house. He who is in the field should not come back to take his cloak. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days! Pray that your flight will not be in the winter. For in those days, there will be oppression such as there has not been since the beginning of God's creation until now, and never will be. If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect whom he chose, he has shortened the days. Then, if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise, and they will show signs and wonders in order to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. You, therefore, must be on your guard.

Behold, I have told you all things beforehand. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be

darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then, people will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. After that, he will send out his angels and [they] will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

Learn this parable from the fig tree. When the branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near! Likewise, when you see these things taking place, know that it is near, at the doors! Amen, I tell you: this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But no one knows that day or that hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 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 Fifth Sunday of August or **Πεσoph**

See The Fifth Sunday of May or **Παυλoς**, page 142.

The Fifth Sunday of August or The Sunday of Κορυι ὴαβοτ (The Little Month)

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 40:14, 13 half of a and b

A Psalm of David.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel
from everlasting to everlasting.
Amen! Amen!

You have supported me,
and established me before You forever.

Alleluia.

Luke 21:12-33

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

But before all these things [happen], they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my Name's sake. It will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or contradict. You will be handed over

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

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is at hand. Then, let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains! Let those who are in the midst of her depart! Let those who are in the countryside not enter in [the city].

For these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who nurse infants in those days! For there will be great distress in the land, and wrath to this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and will be taken away as captives into all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth, the anxiety of nations, perplexed over the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear, apprehensive what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be

shaken. Then, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see it and know on your own that the summer is already near. Likewise, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I tell you: this generation will not pass away until all [these] things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 101:13, 24b, 25a

A Psalm of David.

But You, O Lord, remain forever,
and Your remembrance is from generation to generations.
Tell me how few my days are;
Do not take me away in the midst of my days.
Alleluia.

Mark 13:32-37

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.

But no one knows that day or that hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 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 Thessalonians 2:1-17

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

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind. Do not be troubled by a prophecy, report or letter allegedly from us, saying that the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you in any way! This will not take place unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself over all that is called God or that is an object of religion, so that he sits as God in the sanctuary of God, presenting himself up as God! Do you not remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things? Now, you know what is restraining him, so that he may be revealed in his own time. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! But now, there is one who restrains, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the manifestation of his coming. The coming [of the lawless one] is according to Satan's operation

with all kinds of power, miracles and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness aimed at those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a strong delusion so that they should believe a lie and those who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness shall all be judged.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

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

The Catholic Epistle

2 Peter 3:1-18

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

This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you and in both of them, I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us who are the apostles of the Lord and Savior. First of all, know that in the last days, mockers will come, walking after their own lusts. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? Since the days that our forefathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But they willfully forget that in the old days, there were the heavens and the earth, formed out of water and through water by the word of God. By means of water, the world of old was flooded with water and perished. But by the same word, the heavens and the earth that exist now have been reserved for the fire of the day of judgment and for the destruction of those who are ungodly. Beloved, do not forget that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day! The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some people think that he is. Instead, he is

patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and in this day, the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements will be dissolved by intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be in terms of holy living and godliness! You should look for and eagerly desire the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements to melt with intense heat! But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is at home.

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

untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to with the other Scriptures. Beloved, since you know these things in advance, be careful and fear that being carried away with the error of the wicked, you might fall from your own secure position. Instead, grow in

the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

The Praxis

Acts 2:14-21

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

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: “Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

‘It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days,

I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy!

I will show wonders in the sky above,

and signs on the earth beneath;

blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned into darkness,

and the moon into blood,

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

And it will be that whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.’

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 101:25b, 26, 27a

A Psalm of David.

Your years are throughout all generations.

In the beginning, O Lord, You founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You will remain.

Alleluia.

Matthew 24:3-35

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

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him in private, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Jesus answered them, "Be careful not to be led astray! For many will come in my Name, saying: 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many people astray. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Do not be troubled; all of this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are [only] the beginning of the birth pains. Then, they will deliver you up to oppression and they will kill you. You will be hated by all the nations for my Name's sake. Many will

stumble and will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will arise and they will lead many astray. Because wickedness will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation which-wasspoken about by the prophet Daniel standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop should not [even] go down to carry out the things that are in the house. The one who is in the field should not [even] return to get his clothes. But woe to those who are with child and to nursing mothers in those days!

Pray that your flight will not be in the winter or a Sabbath day. For then, there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, and such as will never be again. Unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.

Then, if any one tells you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or, 'There,' do not believe it! For false messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will show great signs and wonders in order to lead many astray, and if possible, even the elect.

Behold, I have told you this in advance. If therefore people tell you, 'Behold, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out; or 'Behold, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it! For as the lightning flashes from the east and is seen even to the west, this is how the coming of the Son of Man will be.

For wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, the powers of the heavens will be shaken; and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Now, learn this parable from the fig tree. When its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near. Likewise, when you see all these things, know that the time is near, even at the doors. Amen, I tell you that this generation will not pass away, until all these things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. *Glory be to God forever.*

PASCHALTIDE

The Bright Resurrection of Christ, The Pascha of the Lord

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 77:65

A Psalm of David.

the Lord awoke as from sleep,
like a strong man drunk from wine.
And He built His sanctuary like the horn of a unicorn;
He established it in the earth forever.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-11

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

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell

his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.

Now, after Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told [this to] those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. When they heard that he was alive, and had been seen by her, they disbelieved. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:23-50

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

But each in the proper order: Christ (the first fruits), then those who are Christ's, at his coming. When the end comes, he will deliver the Kingdom to the God and Father, that is when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, "He put all things in subjection under his feet." But when he says, "All things are put in subjection," it is obvious that this does not include the one who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also subject himself to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what is the point of being baptized to be as dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized to be on their side? Why do we also stand in danger at every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what gain is there for me? If the dead are not raised, then "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived! "Evil compan-

ionships corrupt good morals." Wake up to righteousness and do not sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised?" and, "With what kind of body do they return?" You foolish one, even what you sow is not made alive unless it dies first. What you sow, you do not sow the shape that will be, but a bare grain, maybe of wheat, or of some other kind. But God gives it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own. Not all flesh is alike: there is human nature, animal flesh and also the nature of fish and birds. There are also heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly differs from that of the earthly. There is the glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. This is comparable to the resurrection of the dead: it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is then raised in glory. It is sown in weakness then raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body just as there is a spiritual body.

And so, it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, what is spiritual is not first, but what is natural, then comes what is spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and

as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. As we have borne the image of those made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly [man]. Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:15-22

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

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

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 2:22-28

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

Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God by deeds of power and wonders as well as signs which God accomplished through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know. He was handed over by the predetermined counsel and foreknowledge of God, taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed. God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was impossible that he should be held by it. For David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before my face,

For he is on my right hand, so that I should not be moved.

Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.

Moreover, my flesh also will dwell in hope;

because you will not abandon my soul to hades,

neither will you allow your holy one to see decay.

You made known to me the ways of life.

You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 117:24, 25,

A Psalm of David.

This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O Lord, save us!

O Lord, straighten our way.

God is the Lord, and has shone upon us.

Alleluia.

John 20:1-18

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

Now, on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. At this, she ran [back] and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Then, Peter and the other disciple went out toward the tomb. Both ran together: the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. Bending over and looking inside, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter in. Then Simon Peter arrived, following him, and he entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been [placed] on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Finally, the other disciple (who had arrived first at the tomb) also entered in, and he saw and believed. (For as yet, they still did not understand the Scripture: that Jesus had to rise from the dead). After this, the disciples returned to their own homes.

However, Mary remained standing outside the tomb, weeping. As she was crying, she stooped to look inside

the tomb, and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she answered, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned around and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which is to say, "Teacher!")

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. *Glory be to God forever.*

Monday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 95:10ab

A Psalm of David.

Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns from the Tree!

Indeed, He established the world, and it will not be shaken.

Alleluia.

John 20:19-23

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

In the evening on that [same] day (the first day of the week), and as the doors [of the place] where the disciples were assembled were locked, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At this, the disciples rejoiced when they saw

the Lord. Then again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and told them, “Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 96:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;

let the many islands be glad!

Clouds and darkness are around Him;

righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:1-12

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. So they entered in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Terrified, the women bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he is risen! Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands

of sinful men, be crucified, and [on] the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered his words. Returning from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now, they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. But these words seemed to be nonsense to them, and they did not believe them. However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He returned to his home, wondering what had taken place. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

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

We do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like those have no hope do. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We tell you the following by the word of the Lord: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that anything be written to you. You know

well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. When they are saying, "Peace and safety," then a sudden destruction will come upon them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness to allow the day to overtake you like a thief. You are all children of light, and children of the day. We do not belong to the night, or to the darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be clear minded. Those who sleep, sleep

in the night, and those who are drunk are drunk in the night. But let us, since we belong to the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, which is what you [already] do.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 2:11-25

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

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

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

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

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

his stripes you were healed’. Indeed, you were going astray like sheep, but now, you have returned to the shepherd and overseer* of your souls.

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

**episcopos, bishop*

The Praxis

Acts 3:1-20

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

Peter and John would go up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. A certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. Every day, he was laid at the gate of the temple (the one which is called ‘Beautiful’) to ask alms from those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. Then Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” The man gave them attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter took the man by the right hand and raised him up. At once, his feet and ankles received strength. Leaping up, the man stood up and began to walk! He entered with them into the

temple, walking, leaping, and praising God! When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized that it was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. As the lame man who had been healed held on to Peter and John, all the people were greatly astonished and ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon’s [Porch].

When Peter saw this, he answered to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had

determined to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. Then you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. By faith in his Name, this man whom you see and know was made strong. Yes, the faith which comes through Jesus has given him this perfect soundness as you all can see.

Now, brethren, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did your

leaders. Yet, this is how God fulfilled what he had announced by the mouth of all his prophets, [namely] that Christ should suffer.

Repent therefore, and turn back [to God], so that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus who was in advanced ordained for you.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 103:24ab (part), 31

A Psalm of David.

How magnificent are Your works, O Lord!

You have made all things

Let the glory of the Lord be forever;

the Lord will be glad in His works.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:13-35

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

It then happened that two of the disciples were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all of these things which had taken place. And as they were talking together and discussing this, Jesus himself came near and went along with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing

him. He asked them, "What are you talking about as you walk?" And they stopped walking, looking sad."

One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened there in these days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They replied, "The things concerning Jesus, the Nazarene! He was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and had him crucified. But we were hoping that he was the one who would redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things have taken place. Also, certain women of our company have amazed us: having arrived early at the tomb, they did not find his body. And they came back saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive! Some of us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

He said to them, "Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. As they were approaching

the village where they were going, he acted like he would continue on his way.

But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is almost evening, and the day is almost over!"

So he went in to stay with them. Now, it happened that when he had sat down at the table with them, he took the bread and gave thanks. Breaking it, he gave it to them. And their eyes were opened; they recognized him, and he vanished out of their sight. Then they said one to another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us along the way, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?" They rose up that very hour, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together and [also] those who were with them. They were saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then, the two related what had happened along the way, and how they had recognized him in the breaking of the bread. *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 91:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your works,
and I will rejoice at the works of Your hands.

How magnificent are Your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Alleluia.

John 6:15-22

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

Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force in order to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea where they got into the boat and headed across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not returned to them. Because a great wind was blowing, the sea became rough. After rowing about three or four miles, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and approaching the boat. And they were

frightened, but Jesus said to them, "It is I! Do not be afraid!" At this, they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately, the boat reached the shore where they were going.

On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples had gone away alone. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 104:1, 2, 3a

A Psalm of David.

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

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

Glory in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:16-20

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

The eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some [still] doubted. Jesus came to them and said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 5:6-21

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

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! For

if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

And not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to

all men because {of whom} all sinned. Until the law {was revealed}, sin was in the world; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam's disobedience (and Adam is a type of him who was to come). However, the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ abound to the many! The gift is not as through one who sinned: for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the sin of the one, death reigned through that one; so much

more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. And so, as through one sin all men were condemned; likewise through one act of righteousness all men were justified to life. Indeed, just as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:1-11

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

Therefore, as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind; for anyone who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Thus you should no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human lusts but to do God's will. For we have spent enough of our past time fulfilling the desires of [non-believing] Gentiles. We used to live in indecency, lusts, excess drinking, orgies, riotous behavior and abominable idolatries. They think it is

strange that you no longer run with them into the same abusive lifestyle, and they speak evil of you. But they will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things,

be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the

strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

The Praxis

Acts 10:34-43

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 104:3b, 4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Seek the Lord and be strengthened;

continually seek His face.

Remember the wonders He has done,

His miracles and the judgments of His mouth.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:9-20

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

Now, after Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told [this to] those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. When they heard that he was alive, and had been seen by her, they disbelieved. After these things, he was revealed in another form to two of them, as they walked, on their way into the country. They went on their way and told it to the rest who did not believe them, either.

Afterward, Jesus was revealed to the eleven themselves as they sat at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, "Go into all the

world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

And so, the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied [them]. Amen. *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 29:6cd, 7, 8

A Psalm of David.

In the evening weeping may pitch its tent,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said to myself in my prosperity,
“I will never be shaken.”

O Lord, in Your love [You granted] power to my beauty;
but You turned away Your face,
and I became troubled.

Alleluia.

Matthew 9:15-17

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

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. No one puts a piece of new cloth on an old garment because the patch would [shrink and]

tear away from the garment, and a worse hole would be made. Neither do people put new wine into old wineskins, or else the skins would burst, and the wine be spilled, and the skins ruined. No, they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 104:43, 45

A Psalm of David.

He brought out His people with joy,
and His chosen ones with gladness,
that they might keep His statutes,
and seek out His law.

Alleluia.

John 1:9-14

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

The true light who enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world had come into existence through him, and the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who

believe in his Name. They were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We beheld his glory, glory as a Father's only-begotten son, full of grace and truth. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

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

Now, I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For what is corruptible must put on incorruption, and what is mortal must put on immortality. But when the corruptible will have put on incorruption and the mortal

immortality, then what is written will come true, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Death, where is your sting?

Hades, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always active in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:10-21

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

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

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be clear-minded and set your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Be children of obedience and do not conform yourselves to your former lusts as in [the days of] your ignorance. But just as he who

called you is holy, you yourselves should also be holy in every aspect of your life, because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." If you call on him who judges without discrimination according to everyone's work as Father, spend your lives as exiles here {on earth}, in reverent fear. Know that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver or gold from the useless way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with precious blood of a blameless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ! He was foreknown even before the foundation of the world but he was revealed at the end of times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:1-13

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

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they inquired, "By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: "Rulers of the

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

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained men, they marveled. They [also] recognized that they had been with Jesus.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 105:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Who will tell of the mighty acts of the Lord,

[who will] make all His praises heard?

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.*

Thursday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 96:8, 9

A Psalm of David.

Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced
because of Your judgments, O Lord;
for You are the Lord Most High over all the earth,
You are exalted far above all the gods.

Alleluia.

Mark 2:3-13

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

Four men came, carrying a paralytic to him. Since they could not come near to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof where he was. When they had broken it up, they let down the mat that the paralytic was lying on. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

But there were some of the scribes sitting there, and they reasoned in their hearts, "Why does this man speak blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately, Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were reasoning within themselves in this way. He asked them, "Why do you reason

these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven;' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed, and walk?' But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he said to the paralytic - "I tell you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house!"

The man arose, and at once took up the mat, and went out in front of them all. The people were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus went out again by the seaside. The crowd came to him and he taught them. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 105:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

Remember us, O Lord, in Your love for Your people;
visit us with Your salvation,
that we may see it in the goodness of Your chosen ones,
that we may be glad in the gladness of Your nation,
that we may sing praises in the midst of Your inheritance.

Alleluia.

Luke 9:28-36

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

About eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became white and dazzling. And behold, two men were talking with him, who were Moses and Elias. They appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Now, Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. As Moses and Elias were

departing from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias". He did not know what he was saying.

While Peter was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent and told no one in those days of what they had seen. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-2:3

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

For this same reason, I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints,

do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation to bring you to full knowledge of him. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you experience the hope of his calling and know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. May you also experience the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to his power and might which he accomplished in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places. Yes, Christ now sits above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name

that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God put all things in subjection under his feet and granted him to be head over all things for the sake of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

You were dead in transgressions and sins, and this was your lifestyle according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We used to live among them and we used to live in self-indulgence, doing the desires of the [fallen] flesh and mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:8-15

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

Finally, be all like-minded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, polite, not giving back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give back blessing, knowing that you are called to do this, so that you [yourselves] may inherit a blessing. For:

*Whoever would love life,
and see good days,
should keep his tongue from evil,
and his lips from speaking deceit.*

Let him turn away from evil, and do good.

Let him seek peace, and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears open to their prayer;

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Now, who will harm you, if you become imitators of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear, and do

not be troubled.” Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:13-22

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

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

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

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 105:48

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
And let all the people say, "Amen! Amen!"
Alleluia.

Luke 7:11-17

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

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a city called Nain. Many of his disciples, along with a great multitude, went with him. Now, when Jesus drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a dead person was being carried out, who was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said to her, "Do not cry." He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He then

said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. Jesus then gave him to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited his people!" This news concerning Jesus spread throughout Judea and in all the surrounding countryside. *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 11:5c, 6

A Psalm of David.

Who is lord over us?"

"Because of the oppression of the needy
and the groaning of the poor,
now I will arise," says the Lord;

"I will set him in safety and manifest Myself in it."

Alleluia.

Luke 4:38-42

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

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also

came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

When it was day, he departed and went into an uninhabited place. The people were looking for him and came to [see] him. They held on to him in order to prevent Jesus from leaving them. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 105:47

A Psalm of David.

Save us, O Lord our God,
and gather us from among the nations,
that we may confess Your holy Name
and boast in Your praise.

Alleluia.

Luke 20:27-39

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

Some of the Sadducees came to him, people who deny that there is a resurrection. They asked him, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man dies having a wife and without a child, his brother should take the wife and raise up a posterity for his brother. There were therefore seven brothers: the first took a wife and died childless. The second took her as wife, and he [also] died childless. The third took her, and likewise all seven [brothers] left no children and died. Afterwards, the woman also died. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife."

Jesus replied to them, "The children of this age get married and are

given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead do not marry or are given in marriage. For they cannot die any more, because they are like the angels, and they are children of God, being children of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the [story of the burning] bush, when he called the Lord 'The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Now, he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all are alive to him!"

Some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you speak well!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 13:10-21

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

We have an altar from which those who offer divine service [in] the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. This is why Jesus suffered outside of the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood. Let us therefore go out [of the city] to him who is outside of the camp and let us bear his disgrace. For we do not have here [below] an enduring city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him, [Jesus], let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips which confessed his Name. But do not forget to do what is good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as people who will give an account. This way, they will be able to do this with joy and not with grief, as that would not be profitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. I strongly urge you to pray for this: that I may be restored to you sooner.

Now, may the God of peace, who with the blood of an eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, make you complete in every good work so that you may do his will. May God work in you what is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:25-2:10

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

But the word of the Lord endures forever.

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

Therefore, putting away all wickedness, deceit, hypocrisy, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow from it. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious,

come to him who is a living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. As the Scripture has it:

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

Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.

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

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

and:

a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.

For they stumble at the word and they are disobedient, which is what they were laid aside for. But you are a chosen race, a royal

priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. In the past, you were not a people, but now, you are God's people. In the past, you had not obtained mercy, but now, you have obtained mercy.

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

The Praxis

Acts 13:34-42

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

That God raised him up from the dead to never again return to corruption, he has declared in these words: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' Therefore, he also says in another psalm, 'You will not allow your holy one to see decay.' Now David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep. He was laid with his fathers and saw decay. But he whom God raised up did not see decay! Therefore, may you know, brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is proclaimed to you! By him, everyone who believes is justified from all things, things from which

you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, for fear that what is spoken in the prophets may come on you:

Behold, you scoffers, wonder, and perish!

For in your days I [shall] accomplish a work,

which you will not believe, even if one would proclaim it to you.'

And so, when they were leaving the synagogue of the Jews, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 106:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Let those redeemed by the Lord say so,

whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:2-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Very early on the first day of the week, they arrived at the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone was [already] rolled back, although it was extremely large.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be

amazed! You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen! He is not here! Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'"

They went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the First Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:10, 11

A Psalm of David.

I searched for You with my whole heart;
do not drive me away from Your commandments.
I hid your words in my heart,
that I might not sin against You.
Alleluia.

John 6:54-58

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

The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live

because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 76:3bcd

A Psalm of David.

I sought God
with my hands uplifted to Him in the night,
and I was not deceived;
my soul refused to be comforted.
Alleluia.

John 20:19-23

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

In the evening on that [same] day (the first day of the week), and as the doors [of the place] where the disciples were assembled were locked, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At this, the disciples rejoiced when they saw

the Lord. Then again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 1:12-23

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

May you give thanks to the Father, who has granted to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love. In him, we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him, all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the Church; [he is] the first cause, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might

have the first place. For [God] was pleased that all fullness should dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, both earthly and heavenly, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

In the past, you were alienated and hostile in mind, doing in your evil works. But now, he has reconciled [you] in the body of his flesh through death, in order to present you holy, without blemish and blameless before him. This is [for you] if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard. I, Paul, became a servant of this Good News that is being proclaimed throughout all creation under heaven.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:1-7

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:19-31

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

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!”

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They found no way to punish them on account of the people, because

everyone glorified God for what had been done. (Moreover, the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was more than forty years old).

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted

up their voice to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.'

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you

anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus."

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 118:73

A Psalm of David.

Your hands made me and fashioned me;
give me understanding, and I will learn Your commandments.
Alleluia.

Luke 9:28-35

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

About eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became white and dazzling. And behold, two men were talking with him, who were Moses and Elias. They appeared in glory and

spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Now, Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. As Moses and Elias were departing from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be

here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias". He did not know what he was saying.

While Peter was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed

them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"
Glory be to God forever.

Thomas Sunday

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 32:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

Sing a new song to Him;
sing praises beautifully with a shout,
for the word of the Lord is true,
and all His works are faithful.

Alleluia.

Luke 5:1-11

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

Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and they were washing their nets. Jesus entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered him, "Master, we worked all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the net." When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and

their net was breaking. They beckoned to their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so [much] that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!" He and all who were with him were amazed at their catch of fish; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on, you will be catching people alive."

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 95:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

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

Alleluia.

John 21:1-14

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

After these things, Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias. He manifested himself in this way: Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing!"

They replied, "We are also coming with you!" At once, they went out and got into the boat; however, but they caught nothing that night! Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Therefore, Jesus asked them, "Children, do you have anything to eat?"

They answered him, "No!"

He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

And so, they cast the net, and now, they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish! At

this, that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his undergarment around him (for he was partly dressed) and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat dragging the net full of fish (for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards away). When they got out on the shore, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus told them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, full of great fish, one hundred fifty-three; and even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast!"

None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" knowing that it was the Lord.

Then, Jesus came and took the bread, gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This was now the third time

that Jesus was manifested to his disciples, after he had risen from the dead. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:20-32

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

But you did not learn Christ that way, except if you failed to hear him and to be taught in him, since truth is in Jesus. You were [supposed] to put away the old self which belongs to your former way of life, since it becomes ever more corrupt after the lusts of deceit. And you are to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away what is false, speak the truth to each other, for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin." Do not let the sun go down on your wrath and do not leave any room for the devil. Those who used to steal should

steal no more, but rather work hard, even with their own hands to what is good, so that they may have something to give to those who have need. Do now allow any decadent speech to come out from your mouth, only what is good to build up as is needed, in a way that gives grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting and slander be put away from you, along with evil thoughts. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God also forgave you in Christ.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-17

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

Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you. This is an old commandment which you have had since the beginning. This old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Yet, in

another way, it is a new commandment that I write to you; it is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines! Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother

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

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

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 17:16-34

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

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

Others suggested, "He seems to be advocating foreign deities," because he was preaching Jesus and [Anastasin] 'the resurrection'.

So they took him [by the arm] and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching that you proclaim is all about? For you bring some strange things to our ears! Therefore we want to know what these things mean." Now, all the Athenians and the

strangers living there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 97:1ab, 4

A Psalm of David.

Sing a new song to the Lord,
for the Lord has done wondrous things;
Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing and rejoice, and sing psalms.

Alleluia.

John 20:19-31

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

In the evening on that [same] day (the first day of the week), and as the doors [of the place] where the disciples were assembled were locked, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At this, the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Then again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and told them, “Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

However, Thomas called ‘the Twin’, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas replied, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and

put my hand into his side, I will not believe!”

After eight days, his disciples were inside once again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and he said, “Peace be with you.” Then, he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands! Place your hand here and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing!”

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed! Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed.”

Now, Jesus accomplished many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. However, these ones are written, so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in his Name. *Glory be to God forever.*

Monday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 26:13, 14

A Psalm of David.

I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord,
have courage, and let your heart be strong;
and wait on the Lord!

Alleluia.

Matthew 14:23-33

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

After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters."

And Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, "You are truly the Son of God!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 111:4, 6b, 7a

A Psalm of David.

A light has risen in the dark for the upright,
for [the Lord God] is merciful, compassionate and just.
a righteous person will be in everlasting remembrance.
He will not be afraid of evil tidings.

Alleluia.

Matthew 8:23-27

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

When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Behold, a violent storm came up on the sea, so much that the waves swept over the boat, but he was asleep. They came to him and woke him up, saying, "Save us, Lord! We are dying!"

He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then he stood up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm.

The men marveled, saying, "What kind of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:1-4

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [This is the Good News] concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of

David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:1-7

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

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we saw and what our hands touched, [this is our message] concerning the word of life. The life was revealed and we have seen, we testify and we proclaim to you the life, the eternal life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, this is what we proclaim to you, so that you also may have communion with us. Truly, our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be fulfilled!

This is the message which we have heard from him and which we now announce to you: that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:1-4

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

As they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them. They were upset because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They arrested them

and put them in custody until the next day, since it was now the evening. But many of those who heard the word believed, and their number came to be about five thousand.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 69:6

A Psalm of David.

You are my helper and my deliverer;

O Lord, do not delay!

But I am poor and needy;

help me, O God!

Alleluia.

John 3:31-36

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and from the earth he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all. What he has seen and heard is what he bears witness to, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted his testimony has set his seal [to this], that God is true. Indeed the one whom God has sent

speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever does not believe in the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 9:20

A Psalm of David.

Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail!

Let the nations be judged in Your presence.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:19-23

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

Then, the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why were not we able to cast it out?"

He replied, "Because of your unbelief! Amen, I tell you that if you have faith [even] like a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind [of

spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

While they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and the third day, he will be raised up."

They were extremely distressed.
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 7:7ab, 9bcd

A Psalm of David.

Arise, O Lord, in Your wrath;

be exalted to the very boundaries of my enemies.

judge me, O Lord,

according to my righteousness,

and according to the innocence within me.

Alleluia.

Matthew 9:27-31

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

As Jesus passed by from there, two blind men followed him, calling out and saying, "Have mercy on us, son of David!"

When he entered the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

They replied, "Yes, Lord."

He then touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith, let it be done to you!" And their eyes were opened. Jesus strictly commanded them, saying, "See that no one knows about this." However, they went out and spread abroad his fame in all that land. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:7-10

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

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

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, to whom I

offer divine service in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, is my witness; how unceasingly I always make mention of you in my prayers. I request, if by any means now at last I may be blessed by the will of God to come to you.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 1:6-10

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

If we say that we have communion with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie – we do not tell the truth.

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we do have communion with one another and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the

truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so that he will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:5-7

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

In the morning, their leaders, presbyters and scribes were gathered

together in Jerusalem. Annas (the high priest) was there, along with

Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others that were relatives of the high priest. After placing the apostles in the middle of their assembly, they

inquired, “By what power, or in what Name, have you done this?”

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 7:7bc, 8, 9a

A Psalm of David.

Awaken, O Lord my God,
in the statute You have commanded,
and a congregation of peoples will gather around You;
therefore I will ascend on high.
The Lord will judge the peoples.
Alleluia.

John 5:22-24

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

As it is, the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him!

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 40:3

A Psalm of David.

The Lord will guard him and give him life,
and will bless him on the earth,
and will not give him up into the hands of his enemies.

Alleluia.

Matthew 9:36-38

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

But when he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. He then said to his disci-

ples, "The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the workers are few! Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest."
Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 62:2ab, 3

A Psalm of David.

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You;
My soul thirsts for You.
So I appear before You in the sanctuary,
to see Your power and Your glory.

Alleluia.

Matthew 9:32-35

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

As they were leaving out, behold, a mute man who was demon-possessed was brought to him. When

the demon was cast out, the mute began to speak. The multitudes

marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!”

But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of the demons that he casts out demons.”

Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their syna-

gogues and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom. He also healed every kind of disease and sickness among the people. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:11-13

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

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

Now, I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that have I often

planned to come to you, but so far, I have been hindered. [My goal] is that I might have some fruit among you also, even as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:1-6

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

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not commit sin. But if someone does commit a sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

This is how we have come to know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. The one who says, “I know him,” and yet does not

keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But if someone keeps God's word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: whoever claims to abide in him should also live just as he lived.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:8-12

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

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them: "Rulers of the people and presbyters of Israel; if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man and by what means this man has been healed, let it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that is it in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (whom you crucified and whom God

raised from the dead) that this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is 'the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.' There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other Name under heaven that is given among mortals by which we should be saved!"

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 9:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart;

I will tell of all Your wonders.

I will be glad and rejoice in You;

I will sing to Your Name, O Most High.

Alleluia.

John 5:31-37a

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

If I bear witness about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who bears witness to me, and I know that the testimony by which he bears witness about me is true. You have sent [messengers] to John,

and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things so that you may be saved. Johnb was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice

for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, because the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do,

they bear witness about me, that the Father has sent me. The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. *Glory be to God forever.*

Thursday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 89:14

A Psalm of David.

We were filled with Your mercy in the morning,
and we will rejoice and be glad all our days.

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:11-15

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.

Amen, I tell you: among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer! Yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers

violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John [came]. If you are willing to accept it, this [John] is Elias who was to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 5:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

You will hear my voice in the morning.

I will stand before You early in the morning
and You will visit and watch over me.

For You are not a God Who wills iniquity;
the evil doer will not dwell with You.

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:2-6

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

Now, when John heard about the works of Christ from his prison, he sent two of his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who comes or should we look for another?"

Jesus replied to them, "Go and tell John about the things you hear and

see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have Good News preached to them. Blessed is he who finds no occasion for stumbling in me." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:16-17

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:7-10

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

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:13-18

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

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

miracle has been accomplished through them, as can plainly be seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But to prevent this from spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them so that from now on, they will no longer speak to anyone in this Name." They called the apostles and ordered them not to speak at all or to teach in the Name of Jesus.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 8:5, 6b

A Psalm of David.

What is man that You remember him,
or the son of man that You visit him?
You have crowned him with glory and honor.
Alleluia.

John 5:39-47

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

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive

glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's Name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his

own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who

accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 15:9

A Psalm of David.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices greatly,
and even my flesh rests in hope.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:14-18

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.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him who knelt down before him and said: "Lord, have mercy on my son! He is epileptic and suffers terribly as he often falls into the fire and in the water. And so, I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Jesus answered, "Faithless and perverse generation! how much longer must I be with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him to me." When Jesus rebuked it, the demon went out of the boy and he was cured from that hour. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 15:10, 11ab

A Psalm of David.

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

Matthew 16:21-23

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

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

Peter then took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be

it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you!"

But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God but on the things of men." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 1:19-21a

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

Because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible things are clearly seen. They are perceived through created things, even his everlasting

power and divinity. This is so that they may be without excuse, because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God or gave [him] thanks.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:11-14

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

But whoever hates a brother [or sister] is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; such a person does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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

children, because you know the Father.

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:19-21

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

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves! But we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard!"

When they had further threatened the apostles, they let them go. They

found no way to punish them on account of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had been done.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 9:11, 12

A Psalm of David.

Let those who know Your Name put their hope in You,
for You have never forsaken those who seek You, O Lord.
Sing to the Lord Who dwells in Zion.

Declare His ways among the nations.

Alleluia.

John 6:54-58

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

The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live

because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!" *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the Second Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:9ab, 12cd

A Psalm of David.

The Lord will command His mercy in the daytime,
and in the night His song is with me,
Hope in God, for I will confess Him;
My God is the salvation of my face.

Alleluia.

Luke 18:35-43

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

As he came near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant. People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He cried out, "Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!" Then, those who led the way rebuked him, ordering

him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, "You son of David, have mercy on me!"

Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do?"

The man replied, "Lord, that I may see again!" Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you."

Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 110:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart,
in the council of the upright and in the congregation.
The works of the Lord are great,
all His wishes are sought out.

Alleluia.

John 5:37-47

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

The Father himself, who sent me, he has testified about me. You have never heard his voice at any time, and you have never seen his outward appearance. You do not have his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me. Yet, you will not come to me to have life. I do not receive glory from men. But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's Name, and you do not

receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him! How can you believe, since you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is in fact Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Timothy 2:8-15

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

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

For if we died with him, we will also live with him.

If we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we deny him, he also will deny us.

If we are faithless, he remains faithful.

He cannot deny himself.

Remind the people of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they should not argue about words: this profits nothing and it brings ruin to those who listen.

Work hard to present yourself as approved by God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:21-25

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

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

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

The Praxis

Acts 9:31-35

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

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 106:20, 22a

A Psalm of David.

He sent His Word and healed them,
and delivered them from their corruption.
and let them offer a sacrifice of praise.

Alleluia.

John 6:1-14

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

After these things, Jesus went away to the other side of the sea of Galilee (or [also called] of Tiberias). A great multitude followed him, because they saw the signs he accomplished on those who were sick. Jesus went up into the mountain and sat there

with his disciples. Now, the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. When Jesus looked up and saw that a great crowd was coming to him, he asked Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these [people] may eat?" But

he said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, so that everyone might receive [even] a little!”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves [of bread] and two fish, but what are these among so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now, there was much grass in that place; and so the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, and having

given thanks, he distributed [it] to the disciples, and the disciples to those who were sitting down; and [he did] likewise with the fish, as much as they desired. When they were filled, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the broken pieces which are left over, so that nothing be lost!” And so, they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which Jesus had accomplished, they said, “This is truly the prophet who comes into the world!” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Third Sunday of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 110:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart,
in the council of the upright and in the congregation.
The works of the Lord are great,
all His wishes are sought out.

Alleluia.

John 6:16-23

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

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea where they got into the boat and headed across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not returned to them. Because a great wind was blowing, the sea became rough. After rowing about three or four miles, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and approaching the boat. And they were frightened, but Jesus said to them, "It is I! Do not be afraid!" At this, they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately, the boat

reached the shore where they were going.

On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, [a few] boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 110:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

Confession and majesty are His work,
and His righteousness endures unto ages of ages.
He made a memorial of His wonders;
the Lord is merciful and compassionate.

Alleluia.

John 6:24-33

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

And so, when the multitude noticed that neither Jesus nor his disciples was not there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to seek Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you arrive here?”

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were satisfied. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For the Father has sealed him – [even] God!”

As a result, they asked him, “What must we do, that we may accomplish the works of God?”

Jesus answered, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent!”

So they said to him, “What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see and believe you? What work do you accomplish? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness! As it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is what comes down out of heaven, and [it] gives life to the world.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 2:19-3:10

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

And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and 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.

For this reason, I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles! Surely, you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given me toward you; how by revelation, the mystery was made known to me, as I wrote before in a few words. When you read them, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to anyone as it has now been revealed to

his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit. I mean that the Gentiles are [now] fellow-heirs and fellow-members of the body, yes, fellow-partakers of God's promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News.

Of this Good News, I was made a servant, according to the gift of God's grace which was given me according to the working of his power. This grace was given to me, the very least of all saints, so that I might preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable treasures of Christ and make everyone see the dispensation of the mystery which had been hidden in God for so long, in him who created all things <through Jesus Christ>. This happened so to that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:10-20

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

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has

made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given con-

cerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

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

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those

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

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

The Praxis

Acts 20:1-12

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

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He

then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after

the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul

spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, "Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!"

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 110:9, 10a

A Psalm of David.

He has sent redemption to His people;

He has commanded His covenant forever.

His Name is holy and fearful.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Alleluia.

John 6:35-45

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

Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life! The one who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet, you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who is coming to me I will in no way reject. For I have come down

from heaven, not to do my own will, but [to do] the will of the one who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me: that of all he has given me, I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him

should have eternal life; and this one I will raise up on the last day.”

At this, the Jews began to murmur concerning him, because he had said, “I am the bread which came down out of heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

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

Monday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 95:5b, 6

A Psalm of David.

But the Lord made the heavens.

Confession and beauty are before Him;

holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Alleluia.

Matthew 18:1-5

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

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

Jesus called a little child to himself and set him in their midst. He then said, “Amen, I tell you that unless you change and become as little children,

you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives such a little child in my Name receives me. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 18:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.
Day after day utters speech,
and night after night imparts knowledge.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:10-13

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

His disciples asked him, "Why then is it that the scribes say that Elias must come first?"

Jesus answered them, "Elias indeed comes first, and he will restore all things. But I tell you that Elias has already come, and they did not

recognize him. Instead, they did to him whatever they wanted to. Likewise, the Son of Man will also suffer at their hands." Then, the disciples understood that he was speaking about John the Baptist. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:4-7

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

Or do you despise the riches of God's goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that his goodness leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath,

revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God. He "will pay back to everyone according to their works;" eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory, honor, and incorruptibility.

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

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:15-17

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

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

world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

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

The Praxis

Acts 4:23-27a

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

After being released, the apostles came to their own [company], and reported everything that the chief priests and the presbyters had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, you are God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*'Why do the nations rage,
and the peoples plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth take a stand,
and the rulers take council together,
against the Lord, and against his
Christ.'*

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.

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

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 7:2a, part of b, 18

A Psalm of David.

O Lord my God, I hope in You;
save me

I will confess the Lord according to His righteousness;
and I will sing to the Name of the Lord Most High.

Alleluia.

John 7:39-42

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

But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is truly

the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Christ!" But some said, "What? Does the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 56:7

A Psalm of David.

They prepared a trap for my feet,
and they bowed down my soul.
They dug a pit before me,
and fell into it themselves.

Alleluia.

Matthew 18:6-7

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for such a person that a huge millstone be hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! Such occasions are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom the occasion does come! *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 56:2ab, 6

A Psalm of David.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,
for my soul trusts in You;
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and Your glory over all the earth.

Alleluia.

Matthew 17:20b-23

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, I tell you that if you have faith [even] like a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind [of spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

While they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and the third day, he will be raised up."

They were extremely distressed.
Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:8-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, to those who are self-unrighteousness, there will be seeking and do not obey the truth but retribution and intense wrath,

oppression and anguish. Trouble and distress will come to everyone who does evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

But glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, because there is no partiality with God. Hence, all those who have sinned

apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:18-23

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Children, these are the end times! As you have heard, the Antichrist is coming and even now many antichrists have arisen. This is how we know that it is the final hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us! If they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But [in fact] they left, so that it might be revealed that none of them belonged to us! You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written

to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father [but whoever confesses the Son also has the Father].

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 4:27-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

For truly, in this city, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your

holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and counsel had foreordained to happen. And now, Lord, consider

their threats and grant your servants to speak your word with complete boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal, and may signs and wonders may be accomplished through the Name of your holy servant Jesus.”

When they had prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 7:11, 12a

A Psalm of David.

Righteous help comes to me from God,
Who saves the upright in heart.
God is a righteous judge, strong and patient.
Alleluia.

John 8:12-16

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

At this, the Pharisees said to him, “You bear witness to yourself! Your testimony is not true!”

Jesus answered them, “Even if I bear witness to myself, my testimony

is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me.’ *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 43:24, 27

A Psalm of David.

Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord?

Arise, and do not reject us forever.

Arise, O Lord; help us,

and redeem us for the sake of Your Name.

Alleluia.

Matthew 20:29-34

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.

As they were leaving Jericho, a great crowd was following Jesus. Behold, two blind men were sitting by the road, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, you son of David!" The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but the blind men cried out even more, "Lord, have mercy on us, you son of David!"

Jesus stood still and called them, asking, "What do you want me to do for you?"

They told him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened!"

Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately their eyes received their sight, and they began to follow him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 56:9b, 10, 11a (part)

A Psalm of David.

I will arise at dawn.

I will confess You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to You among the nations,
for Your mercy is magnified.

Alleluia.

Matthew 20:17-19

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the

scribes. They will condemn him to death, and they will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, scourge and crucify him. And on the third day, he will be raised up." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:14-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

(Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their con-

science bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:21-25

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 4:32-35

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and [one] soul. Not one of them claimed that anything he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. With great power, the apostles gave their witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. No one among

them lacked anything because those who owned lands or houses sold them, and they brought the proceeds what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles. Then, distribution was made to each, according to everyone's need.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 17:47, 50

A Psalm of David.

The Lord lives! And my God is blessed;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted,
therefore I will confess You
among the nations, O Lord,
and I will sing praise to Your Name.

Alleluia.

John 8:23-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you therefore that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {he}, you will die in your sins."

Therefore, they asked him, "Who are you?"

Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning! I have much to say

concerning you and [much] to
condemn.

him, these [things] I say to the
world.” *Glory be to God forever.*

However he who sent me is true;
and the things which I heard from

Thursday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 100:1, 2a, 4ab (part)

A Psalm of David.

I will sing to You of mercy and judgment, O Lord;

I will sing and understand a blameless way.

A crooked heart will not cling to me.

I did not know [it].

Alleluia.

Matthew 13:53-58

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When Jesus had finished [speaking] these parables, he departed from there. Coming into his own country, he taught the people in their synagogue and they were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers, James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? Are

not all of his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all of these things?” And they stumbled because of him.

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country and in his own house!” He did not do many deeds of power there because of their unbelief. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 100:8

A Psalm of David.

Each morning I slay all the sinners of the land,
that I may purge all workers of iniquity
from the city of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Matthew 22:34-40

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered together.

One of them, a lawyer, then asked him a question in order to test him. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your

heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. The second is likewise, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:17-20

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, you bear the name of Jew, you rely on the law and glory in God. You know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. You are confident that you yourself are a

guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish and teacher of infants, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:26-3:1

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you under-

stand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children! For this reason, the world does not understand us, because it did not understand him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:1-6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, a certain man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, [also] sold a possession. He kept back part of the price (of which his wife was also aware) and brought the rest, laying it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart so as to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? As long as you kept it, was it not still your own? And after it was sold, was it not

[still] in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!"

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up, wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 32:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
for He is our helper and protector;
For our heart rejoices in Him,
and we hope in His holy Name.

Alleluia.

John 8:28-30

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am {he}. I do nothing of myself, but as my Father taught me, this is what I proclaim. He who sent me is with me. The Father

has not left me alone because I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

As he spoke these things, many believed in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 145:7c, 8

A Psalm of David.

The Lord releases those who are bound.
The Lord raises up those cast down;
the Lord gives wisdom to the blind;
the Lord loves the righteous.

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:20-24

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

He then began to rebuke the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes! But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and

Sidon on the day of judgment than for you! You, Capernaum, who [thought that you] were exalted to heaven, you will go down to hades! For if the deeds of power which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this [very] day. But I tell you: on the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom, than for you.”

Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 145:1, 2a, 5

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord all my life;
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob;
whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Alleluia.

Matthew 22:41-46

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now while the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They answered, “[He is the son] of David.”

Jesus said to them, “How, then, does David, in the Spirit, call him ‘Lord’, saying:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 2:25-29

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Indeed, circumcision gains something if you are a doer of the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. And so, if an uncircumcised man keeps the ordinances of the law, will not his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision? Will not the uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfills the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision

are a transgressor of the law? For one is not a Jew by being so outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh. Instead, someone is a Jew by being one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter. For their praise is not from men, but from God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:2-3

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone

who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:5-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell to the ground and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men got up,

wrapped him up, and carried him out to be buried. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter asked her,

“Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?”

She answered, “Yes, for that price.”

But Peter asked her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

At once, she fell down at Peter’s feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead; they carried her out and buried her next to her husband. Great fear came on the whole Church and on all who heard these things.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 85:12, 10

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

And I will glorify Your Name forever,

For You are great, and work wonders;

You alone are the great God.

Alleluia.

John 8:31-39a

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s seed and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’”

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin! A

slave does not live in the house forever, [but] a son remains forever. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed! I know that you are Abraham’s seed, yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I say the things which I have seen with my Father; and you also do the things which you have seen with your father.”

They answered him, “Our father is Abraham!” *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the Third Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 31:8

A Psalm of David.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should walk;

I will fix My eyes upon you.

Alleluia.

Matthew 15:29-31

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus departed and came near the sea of Galilee. He went up into the mountain and sat there. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, blind, mute, crippled, and many others; and they put them down at his

feet. He healed them, and the crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 106:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Let those redeemed by the Lord say so.

Alleluia.

John 7:10-13

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

However, when his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly, but as it were, in private. As a result, the Jews were

looking for him at the feast, and they were asking, "Where is he?" There was much murmuring among the multitudes concerning him. Some

said, "He is a good man!" Others replied, "Not so, but he leads the multitude astray!" However, no one

spoke openly about him for fear of the Jews. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Galatians 3:5-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Galatians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness," know, therefore, that those who are of faith are likewise Abraham's children. As foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, the Scripture announced the future Good News to Abraham by saying, "In you all the nations will be

blessed." And so, those of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham. But those who depend on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written:

"Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things that are written in the book of the law, to do them."

Now, it is obvious that no one is justified by the law before God, because "The righteous will live by faith."

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:2-11

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, we are already God's children, but what we will be is not yet revealed. But when he is revealed, we know that we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is! Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law and in fact, sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin. Whoever remains in him does not

continue in sin, but whoever practices sin has not seen him and does not know him.

Little children, let no one lead you astray. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever lives in sin belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born

of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the

one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:12-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Even more, by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were accomplished among the people, and they were all [gathered] with one accord in Solomon's porch. No one else dared to join them, even though they were honored by the people. More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. People even carried out the sick into the streets, placing them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might fall on some of them. Crowds also formed from the cities around

Jerusalem; they brought sick people, and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all were healed.

However, the high priest took action, along with all his associates (which is the sect of the Sadducees). Filled with jealousy, they had the apostles arrested and placed in public custody. But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, saying, "Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people the whole message about this life."

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 19:6c, 7

A Psalm of David.

May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

Now I know that the Lord has saved His Christ;

He will hear Him from His holy heaven,

and with mighty acts show the salvation of His right hand.

Alleluia.

John 6:47-56

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; the one who is believing in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life! Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, its purpose is that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, this one will live forever! Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

At this, the Jews disputed with one another, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Fourth Sunday of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 114:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I love [Him], because the Lord will hear
the voice of my supplication,
because He has inclined His ear to me;
therefore I will call upon Him in all my days.

Alleluia.

John 8:12-20

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

At this, the Pharisees said to him, "You bear witness to yourself! Your testimony is not true!"

Jesus answered them, "Even if I bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the

Father who sent me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two people is truthful. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me [also] bears witness to me."

At this, they asked him, "Where is your Father?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." Jesus spoke these words in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. Yet no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 114:4, 6

A Psalm of David.

I called on the Name of the Lord,
“O Lord, save my soul!”
The Lord is the protector of infants;
I was humbled, and He saved me.
Alleluia.

John 8:21-30

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then, Jesus spoke to them again,
“I am going away; you will seek me,
and you will die in your sins. Where I
go, you cannot come.”

At this, the Jews said, “Will he kill
himself, since he says, ‘Where I am
going, you cannot come?’”

Jesus said to them, “You are from
below; I am from above. You are of
this world; I am not of this world. I
told you therefore that you will die in
your sins; for unless you believe that I
am {he}, you will die in your sins.”

Therefore, they asked him, “Who
are you?”

Jesus said to them, “Just what I
have been saying to you from the
beginning! I have much to say

concerning you and [much] to
condemn. However he who sent me
is true; and the things which I heard
from him, these [things] I say to the
world.”

They did not understand that he
spoke to them about the Father. So
Jesus said to them, “When you have
lifted up the Son of Man, then you
will know that I am {he}. I do
nothing of myself, but as my Father
taught me, this is what I proclaim. He
who sent me is with me. The Father
has not left me alone because I always
do the things that are pleasing to
him.”

As he spoke these things, many
believed in him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Colossians 3:1-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Colossians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

If you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God! Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, depraved passions, lust and greed (which is idolatry). Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming on the children of disobedience. You also used to live in those things when you lived among these people; but now, put them all away: anger, rage, evil, slander, and shameful language. Do not lie to one another. You have put off the old self with his doings and you have put on the new self who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Here, there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and

uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all!

As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:13-24

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever

hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We too should lay down our lives for the

brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person? My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive

from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 10:37-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

You know what happened since the Good News was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after baptism was preached by John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death, hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up the third day

and allowed him to be seen. Yet, he was not manifest to all the people but [only] to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that through his Name, everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 113:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

The Lord has remembered us and blessed us;
He has blessed the house of Israel,
He has blessed the house of Aaron;
He has blessed those who fear the Lord,
[both] the small and the great.

Alleluia.

John 4:1-42

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then, when the Lord learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea and departed into Galilee. Now, he needed to pass through Samaria. And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me [something] to drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

The Samaritan woman then said to him, “How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a

Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Not only this, the water that I will give him will become

in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered, “I have no husband!”

Jesus replied, “You said well, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming,” (he who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then, his disciples arrived. They were

astonished that he was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What are you looking for?” or, “Why do you speak with her?” Then, the woman left her water jar, went away into the city, and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I have done! Could this be the Christ?”

The people [then] went out of the city, and were coming to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, “Rabbi, eat!”

But he told them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

The disciples then said one to another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months until the harvest comes?’ Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields! They are already white for the harvest! [Already], he who reaps is receiving his wages and gathering fruit to eternal life; so that both the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together! For in this, the saying is true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into [the rewards of] their labor.”

Many of the Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who had testified, “He told me everything that I did!” For this reason, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged

him to stay with them. So, he stayed there two days, and many more believed because of his word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said,

but because we have heard for ourselves and [we] know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." *Glory be to God forever.*

Monday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 42:5

A Psalm of David.

Why are you deeply grieved, O my soul?
And why do you trouble me?
Hope in God, for I will confess Him;
He is the salvation of my face, and my God.
Alleluia.

Mark 16:17-20

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

And so, the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied [them].
Amen. Glory be to God forever.

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 42:3

A Psalm of David.

Send out Your light and Your truth,
that they may guide me and lead me
to Your holy mountain, and to Your Tabernacle.
Alleluia.

Mark 4:30-34

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said, "What can we compare the Kingdom of God to? Or with what parable will we illustrate it? It is like a grain of mustard seed sown in the ground! Even though it is smaller than all the seeds on earth, when it is sown and grows up, it becomes greater than all garden plants! It puts out great branches and the birds of

the sky can find shelter under its shade."

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to the people, as much as they were able to hear it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but to his own disciples, he explained everything in private. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:4-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God

counts righteousness apart from works:

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:8b-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This was the purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not keep on sinning because God's seed abides in them. They cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how the children of God and

the children of the devil are revealed: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother [or sister].

For this is the message which you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another! We should

not be like Cain who was of the evilone and who killed his brother [Abel]. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, while his brother's works were righteous.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:21-25

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the apostles heard this, they went to the temple at about daybreak, and they began to teach. But the high priest arrived, together with his associates, and called the Sanhedrin together, along with the council of the children of Israel. He then sent [word] to the prison to have the apostles brought in. But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They came back and reported, "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing

before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"

Now, when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this. One [officer] came forward and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are [now] in the temple, standing and teaching the people."

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 118:105, 135

A Psalm of David.

Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my paths.
Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
and teach me Your statutes.

Alleluia.

John 8:30b-42

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now, you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God! Abraham did not do this. You do the works of your father."

They replied to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality! We have one Father, God."

Therefore, Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came out and have come from God. Indeed, I have not come of myself, but he has sent me. *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 66:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,
and may He manifest His face upon us,
and have mercy upon us, *(Pause)*
that we may know Your way upon the earth,
[and] Your salvation among all nations.

Alleluia.

Mark 4:35-41

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with

him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told

him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, saying to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He then asked his

disciples, "Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?"

They were greatly afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 66:6, 7b, 8a

A Psalm of David.

Let the peoples confess You, O God;

let all the peoples confess You.

May God, our God, bless us.

may God bless us.

Alleluia.

Mark 1:40-44

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

A leper came to him, begging to him, kneeling down before him, and saying, "If you want to, you can make me clean!"

Being moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched the man, and said to him, "I want to! Be made clean." When Jesus said this, the leprosy immediately departed

from the leper and he was made clean. Jesus strictly warned him, and sent him out at once, saying, "See that you do not say anything to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest. Offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:19-21

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, and so that the whole

world may be brought under the judgment of God. The reason is that by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight because the

exact knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, a righteousness of God has been revealed

apart from the law; and law and the prophets bear witness to it.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:13-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do not be surprised, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother [or sister] remains in death. Whoever hates his brother [or sister] is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

This is how we know what love is: that he laid down his life for us. We

too should lay down our lives for the brethren. But if someone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees one of the brethren in need and yet refuses to help, how does the love of God remain in such a person?

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:27-29

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, "Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem

with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us!"

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 53:2, 3

A Psalm of David.

O God, save me in Your Name,
and judge me in Your power.
O God, Hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

Alleluia.

John 8:51-55

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

Then the Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, and [so did] the prophets; and [yet] you say, ‘whoever keeps my word will never see death.’ Are you greater than our father, Abraham, who died? The prophets died [too]. Who do you claim to be?”

Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, ‘I do not know him,’ I would be like you, a liar. But I [do] know him, and I keep his word. *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:49, 50

A Psalm of David.

Remember Your word to Your servant,
by which You have given me hope.
This comforted me in my humiliation,
for Your sayings revived me.

Alleluia.

Mark 6:47-52

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on the shore. Seeing the disciples hard pressed in their rowing as the wind was against them, he came to them when it was about the fourth watch of the night. He walked on the sea and would have passed by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost and cried out. They all saw him

and were troubled, but immediately, Jesus spoke with them, and said, "Rejoice! It is I! Do not be afraid!" He got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. They were utterly astonished and marveled greatly because they had not understood about the [miracle of the] loaves, but their hearts were hardened. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:33, 34

A Psalm of David.

Make the way of Your statutes my law, O Lord,
and I will seek it at all times.

Make me understand, and I will search out Your law,
and keep it with my whole heart.

Alleluia.

Mark 3:31-35

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

His mother and his brothers came and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A large group was sitting around him, and they told him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, looking for you."

He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother, and my sister, and mother." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 2:13-18

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making

peace. He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:8-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 20:1-6

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples

accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 73:12, 13, 22a, 23a

A Psalm of David.

Yet God is our eternal King;

He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

You strengthened the sea by Your power;

You crushed the heads of the dragons upon the water.

Arise, O God, plead Your cause;

Do not forget the cry of Your suppliants.

Alleluia.

John 7:14-29

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

But when it was the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. At this, the Jews

were amazed and said, "How does this man have such learning without having been educated?"

Jesus therefore answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but [it comes] from him who sent me. Anyone who desires to do God's will, he will recognize the teaching, whether it is from God, or if I am speaking from myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is true, and [there is] no unrighteousness in him. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill me?"

The crowd replied, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"

Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel because of it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is of Moses, but of the fathers), and on the Sabbath, you circumcise a boy. If a boy receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses

may not be broken, [why] are you angry with me because I made a man completely healthy on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but make a right judgment."

Then, some people from Jerusalem said, "Is this not the one whom they seek to kill? Behold, he is speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Could it be indeed that the rulers acknowledge that this is truly the Christ? However, we know where this man comes from! But when the Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from."

Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You both know me, and know where I am from. I have not come of myself, but he who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." *Glory be to God forever.*

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 126:2d, 3a

A Psalm of David.

He gives His beloved ones sleep.

Behold, sons are the inheritance from the Lord.

Alleluia.

Mark 7:1-4

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came from Jerusalem and gathered to [see] Jesus. When they saw some of his disciples were eating bread with defiled (that is, unwashed) hands, they found fault. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews hold to the tradition of the presbyters and do not eat unless they wash their hands and

forearms. [Also], they do not eat when they return from the marketplace unless they [first] bathe themselves; and there are many other things which they have received and observe: washings of cups, pitchers, bronze vessels, and couches.) *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 96:7c, 8

A Psalm of David.

Worship Him, all His angels!
Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced
because of Your judgments, O Lord.

Alleluia.

Mark 4:21-25

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a basket or under a bed? Is not it placed on a stand? For there is nothing hidden that may not be made manifest, and nothing was made secret that should not come to light. Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!"

He also told them, "Pay attention to what you hear! With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to those who hear. For whoever has will receive even more, but to the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:22-26

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

It is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. There is no distinction because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. All are being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God purposed him to be an atoning sacrifice through the shedding of his blood and to be

received through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness by passing over prior sins, according to God's patience. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, so that he might himself be just and the justifier of whoever who has faith in Jesus.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:18-24a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

My little children, let us not love only in word or speech, but in deed and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and obtain assurance in his presence; even if our own hearts condemn us, God is greater than this and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his

commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:30-33

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God has exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior in order to give repentance

to Israel and remission of sins. We are his witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Hearing this, they were enraged
and determined to kill them.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and
in every church. Amen.*

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 66:2, 7b, 8a

A Psalm of David.

May God have compassion on us and bless us,
and may He manifest His face upon us,
and have mercy upon us, *(Pause)*
May God, our God, bless us.
May God bless us.
Alleluia.

John 8:54-59

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, 'I do not know him,' I would be like you, a liar. But I [do] know him, and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad!"

At this, the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I tell you; before Abraham came into existence, I am."

Therefore, they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus was hidden, and <having gone through their midst and so passing by>, he went out of the temple. *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 69:2, 3cd

A Psalm of David.

[O God, attend to my help;]
O Lord, make haste to help me!
May all who wish me evil
be turned back and put to shame.

Alleluia.

Mark 8:10-15

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 69:2, 6ab

A Psalm of David.

[O God, attend to my help;]
O Lord, make haste to help me!
But I am poor and needy;
help me, O God!

Alleluia.

Mark 4:26-29

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, "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.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 3:27-31

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Where then is the boasting? It is excluded! By what kind of law? [The law] of works? No, but by a law of faith! Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles as well? Indeed, [he is the

God] of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by means of faith, and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! In fact, we uphold the law.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:1-6a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can discern the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess Jesus Christ as having come in the

flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world. You are of God, dear children and you have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater is than the one who is in the world. These people are of the world. Therefore, they speak according to [the spirit of] the world, and the

world listens to them. We are of God.
Whoever knows God listens to us.

*Do not love the world, nor the things which are
in the world. The world shall pass away and all its*

*desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide
forever. Amen.*

The Praxis

Acts 5:34-36

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But someone stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people. He instructed that the apostles be put out for a while. He said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago,

Theudas arose, claiming to be someone. A number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves to him. He was [eventually] killed, all those who obeyed him were scattered, and it all came to nothing.

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and
in every church. Amen.*

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 23:1, 4a

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 who has clean hands and a pure heart.
Alleluia.

John 10:34-38

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, you are gods?’ If he called them gods, (those to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of him whom the Father has

consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You blaspheme,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’ If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the

works, so that you may recognize and believe that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 128:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

“Many times have they warred against me from my youth”

—let Israel now say—

“many times have they warred against me from my youth,
yet they could not prevail against me.”

Alleluia.

Luke 11:17b-23

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. A house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul! But if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. However, if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then

the Kingdom of God has come to you!

When a strong man is fully armed and guards his own house, his goods are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me! Whoever does not gather with me scatters! *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 145:10

A Psalm of David.

The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

John 7:31-36

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

But of the multitude, many believed in him. They said, "When the Christ comes, he will not do more signs than the ones which this man has done, will he?" The Pharisees heard the multitude murmuring these things concerning him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.

Then Jesus said, "I will be with you a little while longer, then I go to him who sent me. You will seek me

and will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."

The Jews therefore said among themselves, "Where will this man go, so that we will not find him? Will he go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What is this word that he said, 'You will seek me, and will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come?'" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 1:1-14

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love. He also foreordained us for adoption his children through Jesus Christ according to his purpose and will. This is to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption

through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace which he showered upon us in all wisdom and insight. He has revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he had determined beforehand in Christ. This came into effect when the times had been fulfilled, to bring together all things under Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth; yes, in him! In him, an inheritance was assigned to us, foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will. And the end result is that we, who had hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory. You also, when you heard

the word of the truth which is the Good News of your salvation, and having believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He is

a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of his glory!

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:15-5:1a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him,

because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 9:36-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, there lived in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, (which, when translated, means Dorcas). This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy. But it happened that at this time, she became ill and died. She

was washed and placed in an upper room. As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, 'Do not to delay in coming to help us!' So Peter arose and went with

them. When he arrived, the disciples led him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing [to Peter] the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But having put everyone out [of the room], Peter knelt down and prayed. Turning towards the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and

when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Then he stayed in Joppa for a while, lodging with Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 14:4ab

A Psalm of David.

He disdains those who do evil in his sight,
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

Alleluia.

John 7:14-24

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

But when it was the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. At this, the Jews were amazed and said, “How does this man have such learning without having been educated?”

Jesus therefore answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but [it comes] from him who sent me. Anyone who desires to do God’s will, he will recognize the teaching, whether it is from God, or if I am speaking from myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one

who sent him is true, and [there is] no unrighteousness in him. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill me?”

The crowd replied, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”

Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel because of it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is of Moses, but of the fathers), and on the Sabbath, you circumcise a boy. If a boy receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, [why] are you

angry with me because I made a man
completely healthy on the Sabbath?
Do not judge according to appear-

ance, but make a right judgment.”
Glory be to God forever.

The Fifth Sunday of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 117:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say that He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Alleluia.

John 6:57-69

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; whoever eats me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven - not [such] as the fathers [who] ate the manna and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever!" He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Therefore, many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?"

But knowing in himself that his disciples grumbled at this, Jesus said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were those who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him. He said, "For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father."

At this, many of his disciples went back and no longer walked with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life! We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:28

A Psalm of David.

You are my God, and I will confess You;
You are my God, and I will exalt You;
I will confess You, for You heard me,
and became my salvation.

Alleluia.

John 8:51-59

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

Then the Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, and [so did] the prophets; and [yet] you say, ‘whoever keeps my word will never see death.’ Are you greater than our father, Abraham, who died? The prophets died [too]. Who do you claim to be?”

Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, ‘I do not know him,’ I would be

like you, a liar. But I [do] know him, and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad!”

At this, the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I tell you; before Abraham came into existence, I am.”

Therefore, they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus was hidden, and <having gone through their midst and so passing by>, he went out of the temple. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

A chapter from the Second Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Thessalonians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from

the beginning for salvation through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Indeed, he

called you through our Good News to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, brethren, stand firm and keep the traditions which we taught you, whether by word or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

As for other matters, brethren, pray for us, so that the word of the

Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it is with you. Pray also that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, he will establish you and guard you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you accomplish and will continue to accomplish the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the endurance of Christ.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:7-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God's love was revealed in us: that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God

loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 14:8-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

At Lystra, there was a certain man sitting without strength in his feet. He was a cripple from his mother's womb and he had never walked. He was listening to Paul speak when Paul fixed his eyes on him. Seeing that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk. When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, shouting in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" They called Barnabas "Jupiter," and Paul "Mercury," because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and they wanted to offer a sacrifice along with the crowd. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out, "Friends, why are you doing these things? We are men just like you, bringing you the Good News that you should turn away from these vain things toward the living God who made the heaven, the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. In past generations, he allowed all the nations

to walk in their own ways. However, he did not leave himself without witness: he did good and gave you rains from the sky as well as fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Even by saying these things, they could hardly prevent the multitudes from offering a sacrifice to them. Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that "we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God." After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 117:14, 15, 16

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.
The sound of rejoicing and salvation
is in the tents righteous:
“The right hand of the Lord worked power;
the right hand of the Lord exalted me;
the right hand of the Lord worked power.”

Alleluia.

John 12:35-50

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus therefore said to them, “The light is with you a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overtake you. Whoever walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

After Jesus had said this, he left and hid from them. But even though he had performed so many signs in front of them, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

Lord, who has believed our report?

To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For this reason, they could not believe, for Isaiah said elsewhere:

*He has blinded their eyes and he
hardened their heart,
lest they should see with their eyes,
and perceive with their heart,
and would turn,
and I would heal them.*

Isaiah said these things when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Still, even many among the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it [openly], so that they would not be put out of the synagogue, for they loved human praise more than God’s praise.

Jesus cried aloud, “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me! Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not

remain in the dark. If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I do not judge this person. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world! Whoever rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge [already]: the word that I spoke is what will judge such a person in the

last day. For I did not speak from myself; instead, the Father who sent me has given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak.”
Glory be to God forever.

Monday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 42:5

A Psalm of David.

Why are you deeply grieved, O my soul?

And why do you trouble me?

Hope in God, for I will confess Him;

He is the salvation of my face, and my God.

Alleluia.

Mark 5:21-43

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When Jesus had crossed back over in the boat to the other side, a great crowd was gathered to [welcome] him and he remained by the seashore. Behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue whose name was Jairus came forward. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet, and profusely begged him, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death! Please come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made healthy and live.”

Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed him, pressing upon him on all sides. There was a certain woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. She had endured much at the hands of many physicians and spent all that she had. Yet, she was not feeling better but worse. Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. For she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be made well!” And immediately, the

flow of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Jesus, perceiving at once in himself that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

His disciples said to him, "You see the multitude pressing against you, and you say, 'Who touched me?'"

Jesus looked around to see the woman who had done this. But she, fearing and trembling, knowing what had been done to her, came forward and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well! Go in peace, and be cured of your disease."

While he was still speaking, people came from the house of the ruler of the synagogue, saying, "Your daughter is dead! Why bother the Teacher any longer?"

But when Jesus heard the message, he immediately said to the ruler of the

synagogue, "Do not be afraid, only believe!" He allowed no one to follow him, except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). He arrived at the synagogue ruler's house, and saw a commotion with weeping and great wailing. When Jesus had entered in [the house], he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but asleep!" At this, they laughed at him. But Jesus, having put them all out, took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him, and went into the room where the child was lying. Taking the child by the hand, Jesus said to her, "Talitha cumi!" which means, "Little girl, I tell you, get up!" Immediately, the girl (who was twelve years old) rose up and began to walk. At this, they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:15c, 17

A Psalm of David.

The right hand of the Lord worked power;
I will not die, but live,
and proclaim the works of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Mark 4:30-34

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said, "What can we compare the Kingdom of God to? Or with what parable will we illustrate it? It is like a grain of mustard seed sown in the ground! Even though it is smaller than all the seeds on earth, when it is sown and grows up, it becomes greater than all garden plants! It puts out great branches and the birds of

the sky can find shelter under its shade."

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to the people, as much as they were able to hear it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but to his own disciples, he explained everything in private. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:4-9

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now to the one who works, the reward is not considered as a grace but as something owed. But to one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, it is faith that is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin.

Is this blessing then pronounced on the circumcised {only}, or on the uncircumcised as well? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 3:21-24

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God. Whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment: that we should believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one

another, even as he commanded. All who obey his commandments remain in him, and he remains in them. By this, we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 7:37-41

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It is that [same] Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ It is this Moses who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, receiving living oracles to give to us. But our fathers would not be obedient to him; they

rejected him and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 69:6

A Psalm of David.

But I am poor and needy;
help me, O God!
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

Alleluia.

John 3:25-30

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, there arose a discussion on the part of John’s disciples with some Jews about ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore

witness, behold, this one is [now] baptizing and everyone is coming to him!”

John answered, “No one can receive anything, unless it has been given him from heaven. You your-

selves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom who stands [by] and

hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so my joy is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 117:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say that He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Alleluia.

John 3:31-36a

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and from the earth he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all. What he has seen and heard is what he bears witness to, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted his testimony has

set his seal [to this], that God is true. Indeed the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:18, 19

A Psalm of David.

The Lord chastened me with chastening,
but He did not give me up to death.
Open the gates of righteousness to me;
I will enter by them and confess the Lord.
Alleluia.

Mark 4:35-41

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

That day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, his disciples took him with them in the boat, just as he was; and there were also other small boats with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. They woke him up and told

him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, saying to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He then asked his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?"

They were greatly afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 4:9b-12a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was faith taken into account? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised! He received the sign of circumcision, (a

seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was still uncircumcised), so that he might be the father of all those who believe, even if they are uncircumcised, so that righteousness might also be accounted to them. He is the father of

circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:11-17a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also should love one another. No one has seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has come true in us.

By this, we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us [as share] of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son, the Savior of the world. God remains in those who

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 7:40b-43

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' They made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned [away] and gave them up to offer divine service to the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*'Did you offer to me slain animals
and sacrifices*

*forty years in the wilderness, O house
of Israel?*

*You took up the tabernacle of Mo-
loch,*

the star of your god Rephan,

*the figures which you made to wor-
ship.*

I will carry you awayi beyond Babylon.'

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 33:6, 9

A Psalm of David.

Come to Him and be enlightened,
and your faces will never be ashamed.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

Alleluia.

John 12:44-48

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus cried aloud, "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me! Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the dark. If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I

do not judge this person. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world! Whoever rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge [already]: the word that I spoke is what will judge such a person in the last day. *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 18:3, 5

A Psalm of David.

Day after day utters speech,
and night after night imparts knowledge.
Their message went out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world.

Alleluia.

Mark 12:35-40

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As he taught in the temple, Jesus responded, saying, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? For David himself said in the Holy Spirit:

*'The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies the foot-
stool of your feet.'*

Therefore, David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?"

The large crowd listened to him with delight. In his teaching he told them, "Beware of the scribes! They like to walk in long robes, to be greeted in the marketplace, and [to have] the best seats in the synagogues and at banquets. They devour widows' houses, and for a pretense say long prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:24, 25

A Psalm of David.

This is the day which the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O Lord, save us!

O Lord, straighten our way!

Alleluia.

Mark 12:28-34

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

One of the scribes came and heard them debating. Knowing that Jesus had answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?"

Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "It is well, teacher, that you have said truly that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with the whole

heart, and with the whole mind, with the whole soul, and with the whole strength; and to love one's neighbor as oneself. It is more important than any whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that the scribe had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God!"

No one dared to ask him any [other] question after that. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 5:20-6:4

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Moreover, the law came in so that sin might be multiplied; but where sin did multiply, grace multiplied even more! This way, just as sin ruled in death, grace was to rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it

any longer? Or do you not know that all {of us} we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? And so, we were buried with him through baptism to death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:15-19

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

God remains in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they remain in God. We know and we believed in the love which God has for us: God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this, love has been made perfect among us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because in this world, we

are just as he is. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 7:44-50

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness which the one who had spoken to Moses had commanded him to build according to the pattern that he had seen. It was handed down to our fathers, and in their turn, they brought it with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations which God drove out before the face of our fathers. This tabernacle was there to the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God, and who prayed to find a habitation

for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in places made with hands, as the prophet says:

*Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is a footstool for my feet.*

What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord;

'or what is the place of my rest?

Did not my hand make all these things?'

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 117:8, 9

A Psalm of David.

It is better to trust in the Lord
than to trust in man.

It is better to hope in the Lord
than to hope in rulers.

Alleluia.

John 13:16-20

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; a servant is the one who is sent greater than he is not greater than his master, neither who sent him. Now that you know

these things, blessed are you if you do them! I do not speak about all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is in order that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.’ From now on, I tell you before it

happens, so that when it happens, you may believe that I am he. Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 17:47, 48

A Psalm of David.

The Lord lives! And my God is blessed;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted,
the God Who sees that I am avenged,
and subdues peoples under me.

Alleluia.

John 6:70-7:1

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus told them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And [yet] one of you is a devil!” Now, he was speaking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who

would betray him, and he was one of the Twelve.

After these things, Jesus went about in Galilee; he did not wish to travel around in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:26, 27a

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be he who comes in the Name of the Lord;
we have blessed you from the house of the Lord.
God is the Lord, and has enlightened us.

Alleluia.

Mark 7:5-8a

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

The Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why is it that your disciples do not live by the tradition of the presbyters, but eat their bread with unwashed hands?"

Jesus answered them, "Well did Isaias prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their heart is far from me.

But in vain do they worship before me,

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Indeed, you set aside the commandment of God and hold fast to the tradition of men." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:5-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be by a resurrection like his. It means that we recognize this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. Whoever has died has been freed from sin! But if we died with Christ, we believe that

we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus, consider yourselves to be dead as regards sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 4:18-5:1

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear is connected with punishment. But the one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother [or sister], such a person is a liar! If someone does not love the brethren who can be seen, how can such a person [claim to] love God whom he

has not seen? Indeed, this is commandment we have received from him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 7:51-54

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, you do likewise. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They [even] killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become

betrayers and murderers. You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!"

Now, when they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 38:13

A Psalm of David.

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and give ear to my supplication;
do not be silent at my tears.
For I am a sojourner before You,
and a stranger, as all my fathers were.

Alleluia.

John 17:18-21

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As you sent me into the world, I too have sent them into the world. I sanctify myself for their sake, so that they too may be sanctified in truth. I do not pray only for these, but also for those who [will] believe in me

through their word, so that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. May they be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 117:8, 9

A Psalm of David.

It is better to trust in the Lord
than to trust in man.
It is better to hope in the Lord
than to hope in rulers.

Alleluia.

Luke 14:7-11

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When Jesus noticed how people chose the best seats, he told the guest a parable, saying, "When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit in the best seat. It could be that someone more honorable than you might have been invited by the host, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, 'Make room for this person.' Then, with shame, you would proceed to take the lowest

place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place. And so, when the host comes, he may tell you, 'Friend, move up higher!' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 117:28

A Psalm of David.

You are my God, and I will confess You;
You are my God, and I will exalt You;
I will confess You, for You heard me,
and became my salvation.

Alleluia.

Luke 14:12-15

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus also said to the one who had invited him, "When you make a dinner or a supper, do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen or rich neighbors because they might return the favor and pay you back. Instead, when you give a feast, ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind [to come]. Then, you will be blessed,

because they do not have the means to pay you back. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous."

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will feast in the Kingdom of God!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 6:17-22

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But thanks be to God, that, although you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as servants of uncleanness and ever-increasing wickedness, now offer your

members as servants of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:1-6

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father also loves the one who is born of the Father. By this we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and keeping his commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God overcomes the world! This is the victory that has overcome the world:

your faith. And who overcomes the world? Is it not the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 8:1b-4

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In that day, a great persecution arose against the Church which was in Jerusalem. The disciples were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and greatly lamented over him. In the meantime, Saul ravaged

the Church, entering into every house and dragging both men and women off to prison.

As a result, those who had been scattered abroad began to travel around, preaching the word.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 118:145, 146

A Psalm of David.

I cry with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord;

I will seek [after] Your statutes.

I cry to You; save me,

and I will keep Your testimonies.

Alleluia.

John 17:22-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, so that they may be one even as we are one; I in them, and you in me. May they be perfected into one, so that the world may know that you sent me, and [that you have] loved them, even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that

those whom you have given me would be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I knew you; and these have known that you have sent

me. I made your Name known to them, and I will [continue to] make it known; so that the love with which

you loved me may be in them, and I in them.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 134:19, 20

A Psalm of David.

Bless the Lord, O house of Israel!

Bless the Lord, O house of Aaron!

Bless the Lord, O house of Levi!

Bless the Lord, O you who fear the Lord!

Alleluia.

Luke 14:1-6

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, it happened that Jesus went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on a Sabbath to eat bread, and they were watching him [closely]. And behold, a certain man who had swollen arms and legs was [standing] in front of him. Jesus answered and spoke to the experts in the law and to the Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

But they remained silent.

So taking hold of the man, Jesus healed him and sent him away. He answered them, “Which of you, if your donkey or ox falls into a well on a Sabbath day, would not immediately pull it out?”

And they could not answer him regarding these things. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 35:6, 7a

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, Your mercy is in heaven,
and Your truth reaches to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God.
Alleluia.

John 7:37-46

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and spoke loudly, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! The who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within such a one rivers of living water will flow!" But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is truly the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Christ!" But some said, "What?

Does the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" And so, there arose a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. And so, the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they asked the officers, "Why did you not bring him?"

The officers answered, "No one has ever spoken like this man!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:1-13

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

The law had a shadow of the good [things] to come but not the very image of their reality; for this reason, it can never make perfect those who draw near with the same repetitive

annual sacrifices. Or else, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who offer divine service, having been cleansed, would no longer have felt guilty for their

past sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. The reason is that it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but you prepared a body for me;

You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.

*Then I said, 'Behold, I have come
(in the scroll of the book it is written
of me)*

to do your will, O God.'

First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire,

neither had pleasure in them" (those which are offered according to the law), and then he said, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He takes away the first so that he may establish the second [testament], and by this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all! Every priest indeed stands serving daily, often offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:11-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us,

no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not leads to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin;

whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in

him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 23:6b-11

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

“Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! And I am being judged concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

When he said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees believe in all of these things. A great uproar began, and some of the teachers of the law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up. They strongly argued, “We find no evil in this man!

But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!”

The dispute became so fierce that the commanding officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces. He then ordered the soldiers to go down and to forcefully remove Paul from the assembly, and to bring him into the barracks.

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Rejoice, Paul! For as you have borne witness to me at Jerusalem, you must also bear witness in Rome.”

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 135:3, 5

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
sing to His Name, for it is good,
for I know that the Lord is great,
and our Lord is above all the gods.

Alleluia.

John 14:1-11

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Have faith in God! Have also faith in me! In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will return and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be there also. You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

Thomas asked him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going! How can we know the way?”

Jesus replied to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From

now on, you know him, and you have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us!”

Jesus answered, “I have been with you for such a long time, and still, do you not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words that I tell you, I do not speak from myself, but the Father who lives in me accomplishes his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me; or else believe on account of the works themselves. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Sixth Sunday of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 134:6ab, 21

A Psalm of David.

Whatever the Lord willed, He did,
in heaven and on the earth.
Blessed be the Lord from Zion,
He Who dwells in Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

John 14:21-25

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them that person is someone who loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) asked him, “Lord, what has happened that you are about to reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”

Jesus answered him, “Anyone who loves me will keep my word; my Father will love him and we shall come to him and make a home in him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. The word which you hear is not mine, but it belongs to the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while still living with you. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 134:19, 20

A Psalm of David.

Bless the Lord, O house of Israel!
Bless the Lord, O house of Aaron!
Bless the Lord, O house of Levi!
Bless the Lord, O you who fear the Lord!

Alleluia.

John 15:4b-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you [are] the branches! Whoever remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown out as a branch and is

withered. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned! If you remain in me and if my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you desire and it will be done for you. In this is my Father glorified: that you bear much fruit; and [this is how] you will be my disciples. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Hebrews 10:19-38a

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Hebrews. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Brethren, we have boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he opened for us (a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). Yes, since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full of faith. Since our hearts have been sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to stimulate each other to love and good works. Let us not abandon our own gatherings, which is the habit of some. Instead, exhort one another, and even more as you see the Day approaching. But if we sin willfully after receiving

the knowledge of the truth, there is no more sacrifice for sins. All that remains is a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries. One who disregards Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse a punishment, do you think, will one receive who has trampled the Son of God and profanated the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified, and offended the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord", "I will repay." And also, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! But remember the early days when you had just been enlightened, how you endured a great

struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were exposed to insults and oppressions; and at other times you stood with those who were treated in such a way. Indeed, you had compassion for me in my chains and joyfully accepted the seizure of your property, knowing that you have a better and enduring property in the heavens. Therefore, do not throw away your

confidence which has a great reward. Indeed, you need endurance in order to receive the promise after having done the will of God:

*In a very little while,
he who comes will come and will not
wait.*

*But the righteous will live by faith.
The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 4:6-14a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

For this reason, the Good News was preached even to the dead, so that they might in the flesh undergo the judgment that faces all human beings but [then] live in the spirit as to God. The end of all things is near! Therefore, be clear-minded, self-controlled and sober in prayer. Above all things, be committed to your mutual love, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve each other, as good stewards of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be with the strength that God

supplies, so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you and that is testing you. It is not as if something strange was happening to you. But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed because the divine Spirit of glory is resting upon you.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 9:1-20

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest. He asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, [giving permission] that if he found anyone who belonged to ‘the Way’, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now, a certain disciple named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

Ananias answered, “Behold, it is me, Lord!”

The Lord said to him, “Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for someone named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard about this man from many [friends], how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. Here, he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those who call upon your Name!”

But the Lord said to him, “Be on your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my Name before nations and kings, and to the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for my Name’s sake.”

Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me, so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!” At once, something like scales fell from Saul’s

eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized, and after taking some food, he was strengthened. After staying for several days with the disciples who were at

Damascus, Saul immediately went in the synagogues to proclaim that Christ is the Son of God.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 135:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever;
confess the God of gods,
for His mercy endures forever.

Alleluia.

John 14:1-11

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Have faith in God! Have also faith in me! In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will return and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be there also. You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

Thomas asked him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going! How can we know the way?”

Jesus replied to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you had known me, you would

have known my Father also. From now on, you know him, and you have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us!”

Jesus answered, “I have been with you for such a long time, and still, do you not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words that I tell you, I do not speak from myself, but the Father who lives in me accomplishes his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me; or

else believe on account of the works themselves. *Glory be to God forever.*

Monday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 46:2

A Psalm of David.

Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with a voice of rejoicing.

Alleluia.

Mark 6:30-34

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

The apostles came back together around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. Because there were many [people] coming and going, the apostles did not even have time to eat. Jesus then said to them, "You should go away into a deserted place and rest for a while." They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. The multitudes saw

them going away and many recognized Jesus. People rushed there on foot from all the [surrounding] cities and arrived before them, arriving there ahead of them. Jesus came out, saw a great crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He then began to teach them many things. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 46:7, 8b, 9a

A Psalm of David.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises;
sing praises with understanding,
[for] God reigns over the nations.

Alleluia.

Mark 8:22-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When he arrived at Bethsaida, people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand and brought him out of the village. He spit on his eyes, laid his hands on the man, and asked him if he saw anything.

The man looked up and said, "I see people! I see them like trees walking!"

Again, Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes who then looked [around] intently. His sight was then restored and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not enter into the village and do not tell anyone in the village." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:2-5

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God has accomplished by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh; so that the ordinance of the law might

be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [set their minds] on the things of the Spirit.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:9-13

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in

himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. This is

the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son

of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 9:23-31

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Day and night, they watched the gates in order to be able to kill Saul, but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. Saul told them how he had seen the Lord on the way, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had

boldly preached in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He talked and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. When the brethren became aware of this, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

And so, the Churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 27:9, 8a

A Psalm of David.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
shepherd them and raise them up forever.

The Lord is the strength of His people.

Alleluia.

John 16:15-23a

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.

Everything the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he takes of [what is] mine and will declare it to you. In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me <because I go to the Father>.”

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he is saying to us, ‘In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me’ and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” And so they kept asking, “What is this that he says, ‘A little while?’ We do not understand what he is saying!”

Now, Jesus perceived that they wanted to ask him [about these things], and he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves concern-

ing this, that I said, ‘In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me?’ Amen, amen, I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy! When a woman gives birth, she has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she does not remember the anguish any more because of the joy that a human being is born into the world. Therefore, you now have sorrow, but I will see you again; and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you!

In that day you will ask me no [more] questions. *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 46:5, 6

A Psalm of David.

He has chosen us for His own inheritance,
the beauty of Jacob, whom He loved. *(Pause)*
God ascended with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
Alleluia.

Mark 9:14-29

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Returning to the [other] disciples, Jesus saw a great crowd around them and scribes questioning them. At once, when all the people saw him, they were greatly amazed and rushed to greet him. Jesus asked the scribes, "What are you asking them about?"

In the crowd, someone said, "Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute spirit. Wherever the spirit seizes him, it throws him to the ground and my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able."

Jesus answered him, "Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me."

They brought the son to him, and when he saw Jesus, the spirit immediately convulsed the boy who fell to

the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood", he answered. Often, it has thrown him both into the fire and into water, in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us!"

Jesus said to the man, "If you are able! All things are possible to the one who believes!"

Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"

The spirit cried out, convulsed greatly and came out of the boy. He became as dead, so much that most of the people said, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up; and the boy arose.

When Jesus entered into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not we cast it out?" He told them, "This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 46:3, 4

A Psalm of David.

He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
He has chosen us for His own inheritance,
the beauty of Jacob, whom He loved.

Alleluia.

Mark 9:30-32

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

They left that place and passed through Galilee, [and] Jesus did not want anyone to know it. He was teaching his disciples and told them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill

him, and when he is killed, he will rise again on the third day."

But they did not understand the saying and were afraid to ask him.
Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:9-11

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ can belong to him. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteous-

ness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:9-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater because this is God's testimony concerning his [very] Son! Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself, but whoever does not believe God has made God to be a liar, because such a person has not believed in the testimony that God

has given concerning his Son. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son! Whoever has the Son has {the} life, but whoever who does not have God's Son does not have {the} life.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 5:27-29

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned them, saying, "Did we not strictly order you not to teach in this Name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your

teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us!"

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men!

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 114:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

I love [Him], because the Lord will hear
the voice of my supplication,
because He has inclined His ear to me;
therefore I will call upon Him in all my days.

Alleluia.

John 16:23b-33

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; whatever you may ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my Name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete! I have told you these things in figures of speech. But the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day, you will ask in my Name. And I do not tell you that I will pray to the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came forth from God. I came out from the Father, and I have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and return to the Father.”

His disciples said to him, “Behold, now you speak plainly, not in figures of speech. Now we know that you know all things and we do not need for anyone to ask questions from you. By this we believe that you came forth from God.”

Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the time is coming, yes, and it has now come, when you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will desert me. Yet, I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have distress, but rejoice! I have overcome the world.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 22:5

A Psalm of David.

You have prepared a table before me
against those that afflict me;
You anointed my head with oil,
and Your chalice has inebriated me as strong drink.

Alleluia.

Mark 9:33-37

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.

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." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 22:1, 2a, 3a

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I will lack nothing.

He settles me in a place of green pastures,

He restores my soul.

Alleluia.

Mark 9:38-42

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

John 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". *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 7:1-8

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a person for as long as that person lives? Hence, the woman who has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. Therefore, if she is joined to another man while her husband lives, she would be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law and she is no adulteress even though she is now joined to another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ in order to be joined to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit to God.

While we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were through the law worked in our members to produce fruit unto death. But now, we have been released from the {obligations of the} law, having died to what was binding us, so that we serve in 'newness of the spirit', and not in 'oldness of the letter'.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? May it never be! However, I would not have recognized sin, except through the law. Indeed, I would not have known coveting, unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." But sin, finding an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting! For apart from the law, sin is dead.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:13-18

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I have written these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life and continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet

there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 19:6b-10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

And they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. Then Paul visited the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, debating and presenting arguments concerning the Kingdom of God.

But when some became hardened and disobedient, they began to speak

evil of the Way in public. Then Paul departed from them and took the disciples apart; he gave daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalms 39:14, 18d

A Psalm of David.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me:

O Lord, be attentive to helping me.

O my God, do not delay.

Alleluia.

John 17:1-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said these things, and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, “Father, the time has come! Glorify your Son, so that your Son may also glorify you. Even as you gave him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. This is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.

I have glorified you on the earth! I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do! Now, Father, glorify me with yourself with

the glory I had with you before the world existed. I revealed your Name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me; they have kept your word. Now, they have known that all things you have given me are from you. The words you have given me, I have given to them. They have received them and they have known for certain that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Feast of the Ascension

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 67:33, 34a, 35

A Psalm of David.

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,
sing to the Lord. *(Pause)*

Sing to God, Who ascended to the heaven of heavens towards the East;
Give glory to God;
His magnificence is over Israel,
and His power is in the clouds.

Alleluia.

Luke 9:51-62

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

It came to pass, when the days were near for him to be taken up, that he resolutely set his face to go to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him. They went and entered into a village of the Samaritans in order to make preparation for him. But the people did not receive him because he was heading for Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them, just as Elias did?"

But Jesus turned around and rebuked them, "You do not know of what kind of spirit you are. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy people's lives but to save them."

They went on to another village. As they went on the way, a certain man said to him, "I want to follow you wherever you go, Lord!"

Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

He said to another, "Follow me!"

But the man said, "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father."

But Jesus replied, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But you go and announce the Kingdom of God."

Another also said, "I want to follow you, Lord, but first allow me to say goodbye to those who are at my house!"

But Jesus said to him, "No one who has put his hand to the plow and

looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 67:19ab, 20ab

A Psalm of David.

You ascended on high, You led captivity captive;
You received gifts for mankind;
Blessed be the Lord God;
blessed be the Lord from day to day.

Alleluia.

Mark 16:12-20

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

After these things, he was revealed in another form to two of them, as they walked, on their way into the country. They went on their way and told it to the rest who did not believe them, either.

Afterward, Jesus was revealed to the eleven themselves as they sat at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, “Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned.

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

And so, the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied [them].
Amen. Glory be to God forever.

The Pauline Epistle

1 Timothy 3:13-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to Timothy. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Those who have served well earn great boldness in the faith which is in
for themselves a good standing and Christ Jesus.

I write to you these things, hoping to come to you shortly. If I am delayed, I want you to know how the people should behave in the house of

God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without a doubt, great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was revealed in the flesh,
vindicated in the spirit,
seen by angels,
preached among the nations,
believed on in the world,
and received up in glory.*

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 3:15-22

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Always be ready to give a verbal defense to everyone who asks you an explanation for the hope that is in you; [and do so] with humility and fear. Have a good conscience, so that even while some speak against you as evildoers and curse your good way of life in Christ, they may be disappointed. It is better, if it is God's will, that you should suffer for doing what is good rather than for doing what is evil.

Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but [made] alive in the spirit, and thus he also went [down] and preached to the

spirits in prison. In the past, those had been disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In this ark, a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water. This is an antitype of baptism, which now saves you. It is not the putting away of the impurity of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities and powers being subject to him.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 1:1-14

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

The first book I wrote, Theophilus, dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day in which he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After he suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom. And being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but not many days from now, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said these things, as they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing into the sky as he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

Then, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

After entering the city, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. With one accord, all these were continuing steadfastly in prayer and supplication, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 23:9, 10

A Psalm of David.

Lift up the gates, you rulers!

And be lifted up, you eternal doors!

And the King of Glory will enter.

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:36-53

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you!"

But they were startled and frightened, supposing that they had seen a spirit.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is truly me. Touch me and see! A spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they still did not believe for joy and were wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of a broiled fish and a honeycomb from a beehive. He took them, and ate in front of them. He said to them, "This is what I told you, while I was still with

you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled."

He then opened their minds, so that they might understand the Scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written, that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his Name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things! Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."

He led them out as far as Bethany, lifted up his hands, and blessed them. It happened, while he was blessing them, that he withdrew from them

and was carried up into heaven. They were continually in the temple, worshiped him and returned to praising and blessing God. Amen. Jerusalem with great joy; and they *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 98:1b, 2

A Psalm of David.

He sits upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion,
and He is high over all the peoples.

Alleluia.

Mark 8:34-9:1

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Indeed, whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. What does it profit if someone, to gain the whole world, loses his life? For what will someone give in exchange for his life? Whoever

will be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I tell you that there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 109:1, 2a

A Psalm of David.

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet."
The Lord will send forth the rod of Your power from Zion.
Alleluia.

Mark 9:2-7

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up to a high mountain in private, by themselves. [There], he was transfigured in front of them. His clothing became radiant, extremely white like snow, such as no launderer on earth could whiten them. Elias and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus.

Peter told Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias." He did not know what to say, for they were very afraid.

A cloud came which overshadowed them and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son! Listen to him." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and hold firm to the traditions as I delivered them to you. But I desire you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered dishonors his head. But every woman praying or prophesying with her head unveiled dishonors her head, and it is as if she were shaved. Indeed, if a woman does not wear a head covering, she should be shaved; and if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, then let her be covered. Certainly, a man should not have his head covered, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. Man is not from woman, but woman

from man; for man was not created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this cause, a woman should have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Nevertheless, in the Lord, a woman is not independent from the man or a man independent from the woman. For as woman came from man, so a man also comes [to life] through a woman; but all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it appropriate that a woman pray to God unveiled? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, because her hair is given to her as a covering. But if anyone wishes to dispute these things, we have no

other custom, and neither do God's Churches.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 5:14-21

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

This is the boldness which we have toward him: if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us! And if we know that he listens to us, no matter what we ask, we [also] know that we have obtained the petitions which we have asked of him.

If you see one of the brethren committing a sin that does not lead to death, you should intercede in prayer and God will give life to those brethren whose sin do not lead to death. But there is a [type of] sin that leads to death, and I do not say that you should make a request in this case. All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is a [type of] sin which does not lead to death. We know that whoever

is born of God does not practice sin; whoever has been born of God is protected [by God], and the evil one does not take hold of such a one. We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Indeed, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 22:6-10

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

It happened that, suddenly, as I was on my journey and approaching Damascus, at about noon, a great light shone from the sky around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you

persecuting me?' I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.'

Indeed, those who were with me saw the light and were afraid, but they

did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. I asked, 'What shall I do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Arise, and go into Damascus. There,

you will be told about what you are directed to do.'

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 68:33b, 34a, 31

A Psalm of David.

Seek God, and your soul shall live,
for the Lord hears the poor,
I will praise the Name of God with a song;
I will magnify Him with praise.

Alleluia.

John 14:26-31a

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.

But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my Name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I said to you.

Peace I leave with you! My peace I give to you! I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not let it be afraid.

You heard me tell you, 'I am going away, and I [shall] return to you.' If you loved me, you would have

rejoiced because I said 'I am going to my Father;' for the Father is greater than I. Now, I have told you before it happens so that, when it happens, you may believe. I will not speak with you much longer because the prince of the world is coming, and he has nothing in me. But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father has commanded me." *Glory be to God forever.*

Saturday of the Sixth Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 50:10

A Psalm of David.

Create a clean heart in me, O God,
and renew an upright spirit within me.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:53-12:3

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As he said these things to them, the scribes and Pharisees began a furious attack on him and tried to force answers from him on many questions. They were lying in wait for him and seeking to catch him in something he might say, in order to accuse him.

Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so much so that they trampled on each other.

Jesus began to speak, first of all to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed; or hidden, that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light. What you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 111:4

A Psalm of David.

A light has risen in the dark for the upright,
for [the Lord God] is merciful, compassionate and just.

Alleluia.

Luke 10:21-24

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight."

Turning to the disciples, he said, "All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who

the Father is, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Turning to the disciples, Jesus said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see but they did not see them; and to hear what you hear, but they did not hear them." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Ephesians 4:8-16

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Ephesians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now, what does "he ascended" mean, if not that he first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the [same] one who also ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for a work of ministry, to build up of the body of Christ. This is until we all attain to the unity of the faith and to the

knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, having reached the very fullness of Christ. The goal is that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about by every wind of doctrine through human trickery, according to clever deceits and mistaken schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, may we grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him, the whole body, being fitted and knit together, as every joint supplies and according to the participation of each part, grows and builds itself in love.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 5:5-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to those who are older. Yes, all of you should clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober, self-controlled and watchful. Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brethren throughout the

world experience the same sufferings. But after you have suffered a little while, may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the glory and the power unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 24:10-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the governor had motioned for him to speak, Paul answered, “Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. As you can see, it has been no more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. In the temple, they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. Moreover, they cannot prove to you the accusations they are making against me now. But I do admit this to you, that after the Way which they call a sect, so do I

offer divine service to the God of our fathers. I believe all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets. I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both upright and wicked. And so, I strive to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Now, after some years, I came to bring to my people gifts for the needy, and to present offerings. This is how certain Jews from Asia found me in the temple, ritually purified, with no mob or turmoil. But

there are some Jews from Asia who should have been here before you to present their accusations if they had anything against me. Otherwise, let these men explain what injustice they found in me when I stood before the

Sanhedrin. Or perhaps it is for what I cried out while standing among them, 'I am being judged before you today regarding the resurrection of the dead!'"

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 135:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Confess the Lord, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever;
confess the God of gods,
for His mercy endures forever.

Alleluia.

John 16:15-23a

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.

Everything the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he takes of [what is] mine and will declare it to you. In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me <because I go to the Father>."

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he is saying to us, 'In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me' and, 'because I go to the Father?'" And so they kept asking, "What is this that he says, 'A little while?' We do not understand what he is saying!"

Now, Jesus perceived that they wanted to ask him [about these things], and he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves concerning this, that I said, 'In a little while, you will no longer see me, and then after a little while you will see me?' Amen, amen, I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy! When a woman gives birth, she has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she does not remember the anguish any more because of the joy

that a human being is born into the world. Therefore, you now have sorrow, but I will see you again; and

your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you!

In that day you will ask me no [more] questions. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Seventh Sunday of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 145:1, 2, 10

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I exist.

The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

Mark 12:28-37a

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

One of the scribes came and heard them debating. Knowing that Jesus had answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?"

Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "It is well, teacher, that you have said truly that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with the whole heart, and with the whole mind, with

the whole soul, and with the whole strength; and to love one's neighbor as oneself. It is more important than any whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that the scribe had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God!"

No one dared to ask him any [other] question after that.

As he taught in the temple, Jesus responded, saying, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? For David himself said in the Holy Spirit:

*'The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies the foot-
stool of your feet.'*

Therefore, David himself calls him *Glory be to God forever.*
Lord, so how can he be his son?"

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 146:1, 2

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, for psalmody is a good thing;
 may our praise delight our God.
The Lord is building Jerusalem,
 He will gather together the dispersed of Israel.
Alleluia.

John 14:8-14

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us!"

Jesus answered, "I have been with you for such a long time, and still, do you not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words that I tell you, I do not speak from myself, but the Father who lives in me accomplishes his

works. Believe me that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me; or else believe on account of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I tell you; whoever believes in me will also accomplish the works that I accomplish and will do [even] greater works than these, because I am going to my Father. Whatever you will ask in my Name is what I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you will ask anything in my Name, I will accomplish it. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:57-16:8

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,

always active in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Now, concerning the collection for the saints, do as I instructed the Churches of Galatia. On the first day of the week, each one of you should put aside and reserve according to God's blessing, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, I will send whoever you approve with letters to carry your gracious gift to Jerusalem. If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will accompany me.

But I will come to you when I have passed through Macedonia, since I have to go through Macedonia. I may also stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my journey. For I do not wish to see you just in passing, but I hope to stay with you for a while, if the Lord permits. But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 Peter 1:2c-12

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher Peter. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Grace be to you and may peace be multiplied!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, became our father again. This is to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this, you greatly rejoice, although for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. This way, may the demonstration of your faith (which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire), be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at

the revelation of Jesus Christ! Even though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with unspeakable joy and glory. And so you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. About this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you did much research and investigation. They were searching the person and time that the Spirit of Christ (which was in them) pointed to by predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. They received revelation that they were servants of these things not for themselves but for you. These [things] have now have been announced to you by those who

preached the Good News by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven, and [even the] angels desire to gaze upon these things.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 20:1-16

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. He then took leave of them and left for Macedonia. As he traveled through those parts, he encouraged the disciples with many words and arrived into Greece. When Paul had spent three months there, the Jews began to plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. He then determined to return through Macedonia. The following disciples accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Then men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and five days later, we met them at Troas where we stayed for seven days.

On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them. Since he intended to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. There were many lights in the upper room where we

had assembled. A certain young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, becoming drowsy. As Paul spoke still longer, the young man was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. He was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell down on him and took him in his arms, saying, "Do not be distressed! His life is [still] in him!"

Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, ate, and talked with them a long while, even until daybreak. Then, he departed. The people brought the boy [home] alive, greatly comforted.

But we who went ahead to the ship set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there. This is what Paul had arranged since he intended to go there by land. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and headed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The following day, we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we arrived in Miletus. Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend

time in Asia, for he was in a hurry: if possible he wanted to be in Jerusalem

on the day of Pentecost.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 147:1, 7b

A Psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

He will blow His breath, and the waters will flow.

Alleluia.

John 16:23b-33

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Amen, amen, I tell you; whatever you may ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my Name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete! I have told you these things in figures of speech. But the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day, you will ask in my Name. And I do not tell you that I will pray to the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came forth from God. I came out from the Father, and I have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and return to the Father.”

His disciples said to him, “Behold, now you speak plainly, not in figures of speech. Now we know that you know all things and we do not need for anyone to ask questions from you. By this we believe that you came forth from God.”

Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the time is coming, yes, and it has now come, when you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will desert me. Yet, I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have distress, but rejoice! I have overcome the world.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Monday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 21:3

A Psalm of David.

O my God, I will cry out by day, and You will not hear,
and by night, yet it is not foolish of me.

Alleluia.

Luke 4:38-41

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

He rose up from the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a great fever, and they begged him for her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with

various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, Jesus did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:164, 165a

A Psalm of David.

Seven times a day I have praised You
for the judgments of Your righteousness.
Those who love Your law have great peace.

Alleluia.

Luke 4:42-5:3

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 it was day, he departed and went into an uninhabited place. The people were looking for him and came to [see] him. They held on to him in order to prevent Jesus from leaving them. But he said to them, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also. I have been sent for this reason!" And he continued preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and they were washing their nets. Jesus entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:12-17

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh that we should live after the flesh. For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live! As many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to [live in] fear again, but you received the Spirit

of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

2 John 1:1-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The presbyter, to the elect lady and to her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth. This is for the sake of truth which remains in us and will be with us forever! May

grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

I greatly rejoice that I have found some of your children walking in

truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father. Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: we must love one another! This is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you should live accordingly.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 14:19-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Then, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he got up and returned into the city. On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra,

Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 81:8, 6

A Psalm of David.

Arise, O God, judge the earth,
for You will inherit all the nations.
I said, “you are gods
and all of you are sons of the Most High.”
Alleluia.

John 15:1-8

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you [are] the branches! Whoever remains in me

and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown out as a branch and is withered. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned! If you remain in me and if my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you desire and it will be done for you.

In this is my Father glorified: that you bear much fruit; and [this is how] you will be my disciples.” *Glory be to God forever.*

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 47:2

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is Great, and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God, in His holy mountain.

Alleluia.

Mark 9:14-29

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Returning to the [other] disciples, Jesus saw a great crowd around them and scribes questioning them. At once, when all the people saw him, they were greatly amazed and rushed to greet him. Jesus asked the scribes, "What are you asking them about?"

In the crowd, someone said, "Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute spirit. Wherever the spirit seizes him, it throws him to the ground and my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able."

Jesus answered him, "Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me."

They brought the son to him, and when he saw Jesus, the spirit immediately convulsed the boy who fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood", he answered. Often, it has thrown him both into the fire and into water, in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us!"

Jesus said to the man, "If you are able! All things are possible to the one who believes!"

Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"

The spirit cried out, convulsed greatly and came out of the boy. He became as dead, so much that most of the people said, "He is dead!" But

Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up; and the boy arose.

When Jesus entered into the house, his disciples asked him

privately, "Why could we not we cast it out?" He told them, "This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 137:1ac

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, with all my heart,
for You have heard the words of my mouth.

Alleluia.

Luke 6:12-16

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 in these days, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night, in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve from among them, which he also named 'apostles': Simon, whom he

also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:22-27

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We know that the whole of creation groans and labors in pain until now. Moreover, so do we who have the first fruits of the Spirit! We groan within ourselves, awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. We were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. Indeed, who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it

with patience. Also, the Spirit helps our weaknesses, because we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows the way of thinking of the Spirit, because the prayers that the Spirit makes for the saints are always in accordance with God.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

2 John 8-13

The Catholic Epistle from the Second Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Watch yourselves, so that we may not lose what we have accomplished but receive a full reward. Whoever does not remain in the teaching of Christ but transgresses does not have God. But whoever remains in the teaching [of Christ] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive or greet such a person. Whoever welcomes such people participates in their evil works.

Even though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 14:20b-23

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

On the next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

After preaching the Good News to that city and having made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the

faith, [saying] that “we must go through many afflictions to enter the Kingdom of God.” After appointing presbyters for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, Paul and Barnabas entrusted them to the Lord in whom they placed their trust.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 12:7, 6

A Psalm of David.

I will sing to the Lord, my benefactor,
and I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.
But [as for me] I hope in Your mercy;
my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.

Alleluia.

John 15:9-15a

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.

Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you! Remain in my love! If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: that you love one another, even as I have loved you. No one has a greater love than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what his lord is doing. *Glory be to God forever.*

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 118:130

A Psalm of David.

The revelation of Your words enlightens,
and causes little children to understand.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:18-23

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

John's disciples told the Baptist about all these things. John called two of his disciples and sent them to Jesus to ask, "Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?" When the men had come to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptizer has sent us to you, saying: 'Are you the one who is coming or should we look for another?'"

At that very time, Jesus had been healing many diseases, plagues and

evil spirits; and had given sight to many who were blind. Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have Good News preached to them. Blessed is he who is not offended by me!" *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 11:7

A Psalm of David.

The words of the Lord are pure words,
like silver refined by fire, purged of earth,
purified seven times.

Alleluia.

Luke 7:24-28

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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 John's messengers had departed, Jesus began to tell the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously dressed and live delicately are in kings' courts. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell

you, and much more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

*Behold, I send my messenger before
your face,
who will prepare your way before
you.'*

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptizer; yet whoever is least in the

Kingdom of God is greater than he.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Romans. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? Who could bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was

raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Indeed, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

3 John 1-8

The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

The presbyter to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Beloved, I pray that you may flourish in all things and be healthy, even as your soul is flourishing. I rejoiced greatly when brethren came

and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Beloved, you do a faithful work in all that you accomplish for those who

are brethren and strangers. They have borne witness to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner that God would approve, because it is for the sake of the Name that they went out, taking nothing

from the Gentiles. For this reason, we should receive such [brethren], so that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 15:4-9

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the Church, the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported all that God had accomplished with them.

But some believers from the sect of the Pharisees arose and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses!"

The apostles and the presbyters gathered together to discuss this matter. When there had been much

discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 88:53, 50

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen! Amen!

Where are Your mercies of old, O Lord,

which You swore to David by Your truth?

Alleluia.

John 15:12-16

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. 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.

This is my commandment: that you love one another, even as I have loved you. No one has a greater love than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what his lord is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, because

everything that I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, so that you should go and bear fruit, and so that your fruit should remain. And so, whatever you will ask of the Father in my Name, he will give it to you. *Glory be to God forever.*

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 131:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

I will not give sleep to my eyes,
nor slumber to my eyelids,
nor rest to my temples,
until I find a place for the Lord,
the tabernacle of the God of Jacob!"

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 Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 90:13b, 14

A Psalm of David.

You will trample the lion and the dragon underfoot.

“Because he has hoped in Me, I will deliver him;

I will protect him, because he has known My Name.”

Alleluia.

Luke 8:1-3

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Soon afterwards, Jesus went through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of God. With him were the Twelve, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary who was called

Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, the wife of Chuzas, Herod’s steward; Susanna; and many others; who served him from their possessions. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:5-11

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds, how would anyone know what is

being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there

are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

3 John 10-14

The Catholic Epistle from the Third Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds and how he unjustly accuses us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brethren. He also stops those who would do so and throws them out of the Church! Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Whoever does good is of God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.

As for Demetrius, he has a good testimony from everyone and of the

truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen. Instead, I hope to see you soon and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you! The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 15:7-12

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When there had been much discussion, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that some time ago, God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good

News and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he had done to us. He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. And now, why

do you put God to the test by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples, one which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”

At this, the whole multitude kept silence. They listened to Barnabas and Paul report what signs and wonders God had accomplished among the nations through them.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 30:17, 18ab

A Psalm of David.

Shine Your face upon Your servant;
save me in Your mercy.

O Lord, may I not be put to shame,
for I call upon You.

Alleluia.

John 15:17-25

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

I command these things to you, so that you may love one another.

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own! But you are not of the world, since I chose you out of the world, and so the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his lord.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But they will do all these things to you on account of my Name, because they

do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin! Whoever hates me also hates my Father. If I had not accomplished among them the works which no one else had done [before], they would not have had sin. But now, they have seen [those things] and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this has happened so that the word which was written in their law may be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without reason.’ *Glory be to God forever.*

Friday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 41:9ab

A Psalm of David.

The Lord will command His mercy in the daytime,
and in the night His song is with me.

Alleluia.

Luke 11:24-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he passes through dry places, seeking rest. But finding no rest, the unclean spirit says, 'I will return to my house from which I came out.' When he returns, he finds

it swept and put in order. He then goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that person becomes worse than the first." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 118:96, 89

A Psalm of David.

I have seen the end of all perfection;
Your commandment is exceedingly broad.
Your word, O Lord,
continues forever in Heaven.

Alleluia.

Luke 8:18-21

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Therefore, be careful how you hear. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even

what he thinks he has will be taken from him."

His mother and brothers came to him, but they could not come near him because of the crowd. It was reported to him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you."

But Jesus answered, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:12-17

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the

mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well, no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.

The Catholic Epistle

Jude 22-25

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher Jude. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

Have compassion on some of them, making a distinction. You can save some of them, snatching them out of the fire with fear, yet hating even the clothing stained by what is carnal.

Now, to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of

his glory in great joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever and unto all ages. Amen.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 15:13-18

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

When they had finished, James said, “Brethren, listen to me! Simeon has reported how God first showed concern towards the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his Name. This agrees with the words of the prophets. As it is written:

*‘After these things I will return.
I will again build the tabernacle of
David, which has fallen.
I will again build its ruins.*

*I will set it up,
That the rest of men may seek after
the Lord;*

*All the Gentiles who are called by
my Name,*

*Says the Lord, who does all these
things.*

*All his works are known to God
from eternity.’*

*The word of the Lord abides in this church and
in every church. Amen.*

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 24:1, 2, 3a

A Psalm of David.

I lift up my soul to You, O Lord.

O my God, I trust in You;

do not let me be put to shame [forever],

nor let my enemies laugh at me.

For none who wait for You will be put to shame.

Alleluia.

John 7:37-39

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and spoke loudly, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! The who

believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within such a one rivers of living water will flow!” But he said this about the Spirit, which those

believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given,

because Jesus was not yet glorified.
Glory be to God forever.

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Paschaltide

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 106:2b, 3

A Psalm of David.

Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
He gathered out of the countries,
from the east and the west and the north and the sea.
Alleluia.

Luke 8:40-56

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When Jesus returned, the multitude welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. And behold, a man named Jairus came, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. He fell down at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house because he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. But as Jesus went, the crowd pressed against him. There was a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years and who had spent all she had on physicians, but she could not be healed by any. She came behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak. Immediately, the flow of her blood stopped. Jesus said, "Who touched me?"

As everyone was denying it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you, and you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus said, "Someone has touched me, for I perceived that power has gone out from me." When the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came forth trembling. Falling down before Jesus, she declared to him in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been healed immediately. He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer! Your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the

synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

But when Jesus heard it, he answered, "Do not be afraid! Only believe, and she will be healed."

When Jesus arrived at the house, he did not allow anyone to enter in, except Peter, John, James, as well as the father of the child and her mother. All were weeping and mourning the girl, but Jesus said, "Do

not weep! She is not dead, but sleeping."

But they mocked him, knowing that she was dead. Jesus put them all outside, and taking the girl by the hand, he called, "Child, arise!" Her spirit returned, and she immediately got up. He ordered that something to eat should be given to her. Her parents were amazed, but he commanded them to tell no one what had been done. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 32:5b, 6 (except end)

A Psalm of David.

The earth is full of the Lord's mercy.

By the Word of the Lord the heavens were established,
and by the breath of His mouth.

Alleluia.

John 17:1-13

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said these things, and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the time has come! Glorify your Son, so that your Son may also glorify you. Even as you gave him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

This is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.

I have glorified you on the earth! I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do! Now,

Father, glorify me with yourself with the glory I had with you before the world existed. I revealed your Name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me; they have kept your word. Now, they have known that all things you have given me are from you. The words you have given me, I have given to them. They have received them and they have known for certain that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray

for them; I do not pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but these are [still] in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your Name which you have given me, so that they may be one,

even as we are [one]. While I was with them in the world, I protected them in your Name. Those whom you have given me I have kept. None of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, so that they may have my joy made full in themselves. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:31b-14:4

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all

things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become full-grown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in

another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consola-

tion. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:12-17

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

I write to you, children, because your sins are forgiven through his Name. I write to you, fathers, because you know the one who has existed from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong; and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; because everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride in possessions, is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away with its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 1:15-26

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

In those days, Peter stood up among the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty) and said: "Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should

be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit had spoken beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

For he was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry.

(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness, and falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called ‘Akeldama,’ that is, ‘The field of blood.’)

For it is written in the book of Psalms,

*Let his habitation be made desolate,
And let no one dwell in it;’*

and,

Let another take his office of overseer.’

Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

beginning from the baptism of John and to the day that he was taken up from us, of these [men], one must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

So, they put forward two [candidates]: Joseph called Barsabbas who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 107:4, 5

A Psalm of David.

I will confess You, O Lord, among the peoples,

I will sing praises to You among the nations;

for Your mercy is great, beyond the heavens,

and Your truth reaches the clouds.

Alleluia.

John 17:14-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I

am not of the world. I do not pray that you would take them from the world, but that you would protect

them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in your truth; your word is truth! As you sent me into the world, I too have sent them into the world. I sanctify myself for their sake, so that they too may be sanctified in truth. I do not pray only for these, but also for those who [will] believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. May they be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, so that they may be one even as we are one; I in them, and you in me. May they be perfected

into one, so that the world may know that you sent me, and [that you have] loved them, even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those whom you have given me would be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I knew you; and these have known that you have sent me. I made your Name known to them, and I will [continue to] make it known; so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Feast of Pentecost

The Evening or Vespers Gospel

Psalm 50:14, 16

A Psalm of David.

Restore the joy of Your salvation to me,
and strengthen me with Your guiding Spirit.
Deliver me from blood, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

Alleluia.

John 7:37-44

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Now, on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and spoke loudly, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! The who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within such a one rivers of living water will flow!" But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is truly

the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Christ!" But some said, "What? Does the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" And so, there arose a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Morning or Prime Gospel

Psalm 103:30, 31a

A Psalm of David.

You will send forth Your Spirit, and they will be created;
and You will renew the face of the earth.
Let the glory of the Lord be forever.

Alleluia.

John 14:26-15:4a

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.

But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my Name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I said to you.

Peace I leave with you! My peace I give to you! I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not let it be afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away, and I [shall] return to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I said 'I am going to my Father;' for the Father is greater than I. Now, I have told you before it happens so that, when it happens, you may believe. I will not speak with

you much longer because the prince of the world is coming, and he has nothing in me. But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father has commanded me. Arise, let us be on our way!"

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Pauline Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:1-31a

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were Gentiles, you were enticed and led away to those mute idols. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by God's Spirit can say, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. Now, there are various kinds of gifts, but it is the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of works, but it is the same God who works all things in all. But

to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. To one, the word of wisdom is given through the Spirit, and to another, the word of knowledge, [both] according to the same Spirit. To another faith [is given] by the same Spirit and to yet another gifts of healings, [both] by the same Spirit. To another it is given to work miracles and to another prophecy. Another receives the discerning of spirits, another different kinds of tongues and another [yet] the interpretation of tongues. But it is the one and same Spirit who works all of

these, distributing to each one individually as he intends.

Just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body (though many,) form one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, both Jews and Greeks, slaves or free; and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not the hand, I am not part of the body," it would still be part of the body. If the ear would say, "Because I am not the eye, I am not part of the body," it would still be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? Or if the whole body were hearing, where would the smelling be? But now, God has set the members of the body, each one of them, just as he desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now, they are many members, but [still] one body. The eye cannot tell the hand, "I have no need of you," or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." In fact, the members of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable! The

members of the body which we think less honorable, we clothe with greater honor while our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, although our more presentable parts have no such need. But God put the body together, giving more abundant honor to the inferior part, so that there should be no division in the body. Instead, the members should have the same care for one another. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, and when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Catholic Epistle

1 John 2:20-3:1a

The Catholic Epistle from the First Epistle of our teacher John. His Blessing be upon us. Amen.

You have an anointing from the Holy One and you perceive all things. I have not written to you because you do not perceive the truth, but because you perceive it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? Is it not anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

As for you, what you heard from the beginning should remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which he promised us: eternal life. I have written to you these things concerning those who would lead you astray. As for you, the

anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. His anointing teaches you about all things; [his anointing] is true, not a lie. You will remain in him, just as the anointing has taught you. Now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him when he comes. If you understand that he is righteous, you also understand that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called God's children!

Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires; but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

The Praxis

Acts 2:1-21

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure Apostles, who were invested with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Their blessing be with us all. Amen.

Now, when the day of Pentecost came, they were all with one accord [gathered] in the same place. Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Divided tongues that seemed like fire appeared and one [tongue] rested on each of them. Then, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave

them the ability to speak. At that time {of year}, devout Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd formed and people were bewildered because everyone heard the disciples speaking in one's own language. They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Behold, are not all these who speak Galileans? How is it that we hear everyone [speak] in our own native

language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages [concerning] the deeds of power of God!" They were all amazed and perplexed, saying one to another, "What does this mean?" Others, mockingly, said, "They are filled with new wine!"

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them: "Men of Judea, and all of you who are [now] staying in Jerusalem, let this be explained to you and listen to my words. For these [people] are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! But this is what has been announced through the prophet Joel:

It will be in the last days, says God,

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days,

I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy!

I will show wonders in the sky above,

and signs on the earth beneath;

blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned into darkness,

and the moon into blood,

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

And it will be that whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.'

The word of the Lord abides in this church and in every church. Amen.

The Liturgy Gospel

Psalm 46:6, 8a

A Psalm of David.

God ascended with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
For God is King of all the earth.

Alleluia.

John 15:26-16:5

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

When the Paraclete has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me. You also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

“I have told you these things, so that you would not be caused to stumble. They will expel you from the synagogues! Yes, the time is coming when whoever kills you will think that he is offering {divine} service to God! They will do these things because they have not known the Father or me. But I have told you these things, so that when the time arrives, you may remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you these things from the beginning because I was with you. But now, I am going to him who sent me, and none of you is asking me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled

your heart. Yet, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away because if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment; about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to my Father and you will not see me any more; about judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged.

I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth because he will not speak from himself, but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will tell you of things that are yet to come. He will glorify me by taking from what is mine, and he will declare it to you. *Glory be to God forever.*

The Office of Kneeling (or Worship) on the Eve of Monday after Pentecost

The Prophecies of the First Kneeling

Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“The Lord spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain from the midst of the fire; there was darkness, gloom, storm, and a loud voice, and He added no more. Then He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and gave them to me. So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the fire, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near me, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders. Then you said, ‘Surely the Lord our God showed us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We saw this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. Now therefore, let us not die, because this great fire will destroy us; and if we continue to hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. For who of flesh heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear whatever the Lord our God may say, and tell us whatever the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.’

“Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, ‘I heard the voice of this people, whatever words they spoke to you. They are right in whatever they said. Would they had such a heart in them so as to fear Me and guard My commandments all the

time, that it might be well with them and their sons forever. Go and say to them, ‘Return to your houses.’” But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments you are to teach them, so they may do them in the land I give them as an inheritance.’ Therefore you shall be careful to do in the manner the Lord your God commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in every way the Lord your God commanded you, that He may give you rest, and it be well with you, and you prolong your days in the land you are to inherit.

“Now these are the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded to teach you, that you may do them in the land you are crossing over to inherit, and may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His ordinances and commandments I command you today, you and your sons and the sons of your sons, all the days of your life, so your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you—‘to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Pauline Epistle of the First Kneeling

1 Corinthians 12:28-13:12

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

God has appointed some in the Church as follows: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then wonderworkers, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those with different kinds of tongues. However, are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I [will] show you a most excellent way.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and have all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but if I do not have love; I am nothing. If I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not brag, it

is not proud, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way. [Love] does not take offence and does not keep track of evil, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know [only] in part, and we prophesy [only] in part; but when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become fullgrown, I have put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now, I know [only] in part, but then, I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Gospel of the First Kneeling

Psalm 96:7c, 8a, 1

A Psalm of David.

Worship Him, all His angels!
Zion heard and was glad,
The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad!

Alleluia.

John 17:1-26

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Jesus said these things, and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the time has come! Glorify your Son, so that your Son may also glorify you. Even as you gave him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

This is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.

I have glorified you on the earth! I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do! Now, Father, glorify me with yourself with the glory I had with you before the world existed. I revealed your Name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me; they have kept your word. Now, they have known that all things you have given me are from you. The words you have given me, I have given to them. They have received

them and they have known for certain that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them; I do not pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but these are [still] in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your Name which you have given me, so that they may be one, even as we are [one]. While I was with them in the world, I protected them in your Name. Those whom you have given me I have kept. None of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, so that they may have my joy made full in themselves. I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world,

even as I am not of the world. I do not pray that you would take them from the world, but that you would protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in your truth; your word is truth! As you sent me into the world, I too have sent them into the world. I sanctify myself for their sake, so that they too may be sanctified in truth. I do not pray only for these, but also for those who [will] believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. May they be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, so that they may

be one even as we are one; I in them, and you in me. May they be perfected into one, so that the world may know that you sent me, and [that you have] loved them, even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those whom you have given me would be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I knew you; and these have known that you have sent me. I made your Name known to them, and I will [continue to] make it known; so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them.” *Glory be to God forever.*

The Prophecies of the Second Kneeling

Deuteronomy 6:17-25

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and the ordinances He commanded you. So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and you may go in and inherit the good land the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase out all your enemies from before your face, as He said.

“Then it shall be when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are the testimonies, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded you?’ you shall say to

your son, ‘We were servants of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; and the Lord set great and evil signs affecting Egypt, Pharaoh, and his house before us. Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in to give us this land He swore to give our fathers. So the Lord commanded us to do all these ordinances, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, and we may live as today. Then we shall have mercy, if we are careful to do all these

commandments before the Lord our God, as the Lord commanded us.’

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Pauline Epistle of the Second Kneeling

1 Corinthians 13:13-14:17

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

But now, faith, hope, and love remain: these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially so that you may prophesy. For whoever speaks in another tongue speaks not to human beings, but to God; and no one understands, but in the Spirit such a one speaks mysteries. Whoever prophesies speaks to others for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. Whoever speaks in another tongue edifies himself [only], but the one who prophesies edifies the Church. Now, I desire to have all of you speak in other tongues, and even more that you would prophesy. For the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what profit is there for you unless I speak either by way of revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching? Consider things without life but giving a voice, such as a pipe or a harp: if they did not give a distinction in the sounds,

how would anyone know what is being played? For if the trumpet gave an uncertain sound, who would prepare for war? It is the same with you: if you do not utter words easy to understand, how will people understand what is spoken? For you would be speaking into the air! As it is, there are many kinds of sounds in the world, and none of them is without meaning. But if I do not know the meaning of the sound, I would be as a foreigner to the one speaking [in tongues] and vice-versa. And so with you, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, try to excel in what edifies the Church. Therefore, the one who speaks in another tongue should pray that he may [also] interpret, because if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind does not bear fruit.

What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the mind. I will sing with the spirit, and with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will the one who is untrained say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, not knowing what you say? You give thanks well,

no doubt about it, but the other person is not built up.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Gospel of the Second Kneeling

Psalm 113:20, 21

A Psalm of David.

The Lord has remembered us and blessed us;
He has blessed the house of Israel,
He has blessed the house of Aaron;
He has blessed those who fear the Lord,
[both] the small and the great.

Alleluia.

Luke 24:36-53

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

As they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you!"

But they were startled and frightened, supposing that they had seen a spirit.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is truly me. Touch me and see! A spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they still did not believe for joy and were wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of a broiled fish and a honeycomb from a beehive. He took them, and ate in front

of them. He said to them, "This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled."

He then opened their minds, so that they might understand the Scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written, that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his Name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things! Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."

He led them out as far as Bethany, lifted up his hands, and blessed them. It happened, while he was blessing them, that he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. They

worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.
Glory be to God forever.

The Prophecies of the Third Kneeling

Deuteronomy 16:1-18

From the book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Prophet. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

“Observe the month of new corn, and keep Pascha to the Lord your God, for in the month of new corn He brought you out of Egypt by night. Therefore you shall sacrifice Pascha to the Lord your God from the sheep and oxen, in the place the Lord chooses for His name to be called upon there. You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your borders for seven days, nor shall any of the meat you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain until morning. You may not sacrifice Pascha within any of your cities the Lord your God gives you; but at the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there, there you shall sacrifice Pascha at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt. You shall roast and eat it in the place the Lord your God chooses, and in the

morning you shall turn and go to your houses. Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh and final day, there shall be a feast to the Lord your God. You shall do no work on it except what must be done for life.

“You shall count seven complete weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God, and according to your ability you may offer whatever you wish, as the Lord your God blessed you. You shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and daughter, your male servant and female servant, the Levite who is within your cities, the resident alien and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the Lord your God chooses for His name to be called upon there. And you shall remember you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these commandments.

“You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you

have gathered from your threshing floor and winepress. You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and daughter, your male servant and female servant, the Levite, the resident alien, the fatherless and the widow who are within your cities. Seven days you shall keep a feast to the Lord your God in the place the Lord your God chooses for Himself, and if the Lord your God should bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, you will be rejoicing. Three times a year all your males shall appear before the

Lord your God in the place the Lord chooses; at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord your God empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing the Lord your God gave you.

“You shall appoint judges and teachers in all the cities the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Glory to the Holy Trinity.

The Pauline Epistle of the Third Kneeling

1 Corinthians 14:18-40

A chapter from the First Epistle of our teacher Paul to the Corinthians. His blessing be upon us. Amen.

I give thanks to my God: I speak in tongues more than all of you. However, in the Church, I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand words in another tongue, in order to instruct others.

Brethren, do not be children in thoughts, yet be infants when it comes to evil. Be mature in your thoughts. It is written in the law, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. Yet, not even thus will they hear me, says the Lord.” Therefore, other tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. Prophesying is [also] a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe.

If therefore the whole Church is assembled and all speak in tongues, and someone unlearned or unbelieving comes in, will he not say that you are crazy? But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, that person is reproved by all, and is judged by all. And thus, the secrets of this person’s heart shall be revealed in order to fall down on his face and worship God, declaring that God is among you indeed.

What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a [saying in] tongue, or an interpretation. Let all these things be done to build each other up. If someone

speaks in another tongue, let it be two or at the most three of them, one at a time; and then someone should interpret. But if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent in the Church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak, two or three of them, and then let the others ponder on what was said. But if a revelation is made to another sitting by, the first speaker should then keep silent. Certainly, all of you can prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted. The prophetic spirit is to be under the prophets' control, for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

As is done in all the Churches of the saints, women should remain

silent in the Churches, for it has not been permitted for them to speak as they are to be under authority, as the law also says. If they desire to learn about something, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is not fitting that a woman should speak in the Church. Do you think that it was from you that the word of God went out? Or did it come to you alone? If any man thinks himself to be a prophet or someone spiritual, let him recognize the things which I write to you: these are the commandment of the Lord. But the ignorant is truly ignorant! Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, but let all things be done decently and in order.

*The grace of God the Father be with you all.
Amen.*

The Gospel of the Third Kneeling

Psalm 65:4

A Psalm of David.

Let all the earth worship You
and sing to You;
let them sing to Your Name.

Alleluia.

John 4:1-24

Stand with the fear of God. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Bless, O Lord, the reading of the Holy Gospel, according to St. John. Blessed be He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to Whom is glory forever.

Then, when the Lord learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples

than John" (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea and departed into Galilee.

Now, he needed to pass through Samaria. And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; and Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me [something] to drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

The Samaritan woman then said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?"

Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Not only this, the

water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come all the way here to draw [water]!"

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

The woman answered, "I have no husband!"

Jesus replied, "You said well, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people should worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." *Glory be to God forever.*

